



# THE TIMES

THURSDAY MARCH 5 1987

(25p)

## Kinnock lifts party morale and warns left

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock lifted the morale of Labour MPs yesterday with a passionate call to show courage and not buckle in the wake of the Greenwich by-election defeat, coupled with a sharp warning to the left not to stand in the way of the party's progress.

In what his parliamentary colleagues were describing as one of his strongest leadership performances, Mr Kinnock tried to calm the worries of MPs with a confident prediction of victory at the general election and a strong declaration to the left that it would not be allowed to influence the leadership, policies and direction of the party.

Mr Kinnock said that this was no time to bend the knee; it was no time to look inwards. And, after the shock defeat of Mrs Deirdre Wood, widely perceived as a hard-left candidate out of tune with the traditional Labour voters of Greenwich, Mr Kinnock told constituency parties to pay heed to the feelings and values of the electorate in their choice of candidates. But he said that there would be no imposition of candidates by the leadership.

After the Greenwich disaster, many Labour MPs had gone into yesterday's private meeting of the Par-

liamentary Labour Party in a state of deep depression. But in a firm speech directed at critics on the left and right, Mr Kinnock was acting to prevent a further bout of party infighting. Afterwards the general consensus was that he had succeeded.

Indeed, so forceful was the Labour leader's contribution that it was the last. Many MPs who had planned to voice their concerns declined to do so.

In a Radio 4 interview last night Mr Kinnock again criticised the "self-indulgence" of some left-wing Labour councils. Some, he said, were by their actions not serving the people they sincerely wanted to serve.

Those people who wanted to think of their areas as islands of sweeping deprivation which alienated them from the rest of the country so that they could do exactly what they liked were sabotaging what was needed to mitigate the problems of their areas.

so, feeling that he had said what needed to be said.

Mr Kinnock said that the idea that the leadership should appoint all candidates was "political illiteracy." Except where there was a constitutional impropriety, it would be wrong on an offence against democracy to do so. "I want no more slack and idle talk of the leadership planting candidates."

But the words most of his audience wanted to hear followed immediately. Giving constituency parties the rights to select candidates meant they must carry responsibility. "The senior responsibility was in making their choice," he said.

### Sex case Jordanian must stay

By Andrew McEwen and Stewart Tisdall

The Jordanian Ambassador yesterday saw a Foreign Office minister to discuss the case of a Jordanian Embassy worker who was questioned by detectives about a series of indecent assaults in London.

The man, a member of the Jordanian Army, was held last Friday by police investigating 15 assaults on women in the Holland Park area of west London. Scotland Yard said the man claimed diplomatic immunity and was released.

But the Foreign Office said yesterday that the Jordanian would not have had diplomatic immunity.

As a member of the service staff, he had third-class immunity covering him only while conducting his official duties.

The Foreign Office also said it had not been consulted. If it had, the reply would have been that the Jordanian had no immunity.

Mr Nabih al-Nimr, Jordan's Ambassador, was called to the Foreign Office to see Mr Timothy Eggar, Under-Secretary of State. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "He assured Mr Eggar that the Jordanian Embassy were giving their full co-operation and indicated that the man in question will not leave the UK while investigations continue."

Police sources say the man was released because there was insufficient evidence to charge him, not because of immunity. Detectives are now awaiting the results of scientific tests.

heed the people they are seeking to represent, to comprehend their feelings and values and to listen to them and to respond to their deeply held and understandable views."

In the Labour movement we operate with the people not in spite of the people.

That does not mean knowing to the prejudices of the Press or forsaking beliefs. It does mean fulfilling the rudimentary requirements of democracy to be authentic representatives of those whose votes we seek. It is an honest contract and one that must be kept.

In a sideswipe at the left, Mr Kinnock described as "consummate stupidity" the claim that Greenwich was a right-wing campaign fought by a left-wing candidate.

Mr Kinnock told his party that it must put Greenwich behind it. Everything it had done and said since 1983 had been geared to victory in the general election; in policy development, improving organisation, expelling the Militant, it had fought and pushed and won.

Mr Kinnock said that recriminations should be left aside, they were self-indulgent and fruitless. "Learn the lessons. Most of all understand that I have no time and this party has no time for those who would rather win an argument with friends than win an election against enemies."

The people "on the fringes" of the movement would have no influence. "They are numbered in tens. They do not represent the policies or the character of a party of over 300,000."

### Aids drug is given go-ahead

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Approval for the use of the Aids treatment AZT for patients in Britain was announced by the Government last night.

The Committee on the Safety of Medicines, which will be known as Retrovir, should be granted a product licence.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said that the advice had been accepted.

The decision means that Aids sufferers and those with Aids-related conditions may be offered the drug by hospital specialists. Retrovir prevents the Aids virus from reproducing, has been shown to prolong life and improve the health of some patients.

However, it is not a cure and does not prevent people from becoming infected with the Aids virus.

Retrovir can now be marketed in Britain by the Wellcome pharmaceutical company, which has developed it.

Specialists met earlier this week to discuss which categories of Aids patients should receive the drug.

It already has been given to a small number of Aids patients under carefully-controlled conditions in London hospitals and is known to have serious side-effects.

The company has said that it hopes to produce enough by May to help 10,000 sufferers worldwide. The drug is likely to cost about £125 per 100 pills.



The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the World Wildlife Fund, launching a campaign in London yesterday to save the giant panda. (Photograph: Chris Harris). Story, page 2

## Storm over Ridley 'London homeless can move' advice

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday caused a storm of protest in the House of Commons when he suggested that homeless people in London should go to other areas where there were homes empty.

He said there were some 750,000 more houses in this country than there were homeless people, and he added, "It may conceivably be a good idea for them to go somewhere, where there is a home rather than to sleep rough in London."

Opposition MPs who heard his remarks at Question Time were comparing them with Mr Norman Tebbit's famous phrase "on your bike", and Dr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, condemned them as "crass and insensitive."

Referring to an invitation from Mr Nick Raynsford, Labour MP for Fulham, that he should take action on three fronts - private, council and Government-owned housing - Mr Ridley answered: "You never know, I might."

In taunting mood, Mr Ridley further upset Labour members by telling the House that there was no point in building more council houses in areas where there was already a surplus, and he reaffirmed his support for the relaxation of rent controls in the private sector.

The latest figures show that there are around 113,000 empty council houses, of which about one quarter have been empty for more than one year.

### Cheaper loans on way

Cheaper overdrafts and home loans are looking more certain after interest rates in London's money markets fell yesterday for the fourth consecutive trading day.

Rates are now consistent with a cut in base lending rates from 11 per cent to 10½ per cent. The Bank of England, which has been intervening in money markets, to damp down hopes of early interest rate cuts, appeared to be inactive yesterday, giving rise to renewed speculation that

lower base rates may emerge before the Budget on March 17.

The pound had a good day on the foreign exchanges. It rose against both the dollar and the mark and sterling's index against other leading currencies rose to 70.9 compared with 70.6 on Tuesday.

Shares made small gains and the FT-SE 100 share index broke through the 2000 level for the first time. It has doubled since January 1984.

Record day, page 19

## Reagan rejects idea of control by wife

From Christopher Thomas and Michael Binyon, Washington

An angry President Reagan yesterday attacked "the fiction, the despicable fiction," that Mrs Nancy Reagan was helping him to run the White House.

"A lot of people ought to be ashamed of themselves" for spreading the story, he said during a photo session.

Mr Howard Baker, the new Chief of Staff who let slip that Mrs Reagan could be a bit of a "dragon", was present and smiled broadly.

The President, who for many weeks has avoided contact with journalists, acknowledged that he was "breaking my own rule here," but said a nerve had been touched.

Earlier yesterday, before his crucial nationwide television address last night, Mr Reagan plunged into a hectic round of meetings, visits, appearances and announcements to counter the impression that he has lost control.

He made his first formal appearance in three months before the White House press corps to announce in person the US response to the latest Soviet arms proposals, visited the staff of his National Security Council, was briefed on Angola and Mozambique, held talks with congressional leaders and announced Mr William Webster, head of the FBI, as his choice to head the CIA. The choice prompted positive reactions in political circles.

Mr Baker and Mr Frank Carlucci, the National Security Adviser, have urged him to demonstrate his "engagement" in the business of government in response to the Tower Commission accusations. Mr Reagan is said to be distressed by suggestions that he is too old or too lazy for the job.

His televised speech last night was considered crucial to his attempt to rebound from the Iran arms scandal. It came on his 35th wedding anniversary, which he celebrated with a family dinner before the television address.

### Viscount quits Army over cuts

Lord Morpeth, heir to the Earl of Carlisle, has resigned his commission in the Army after making frequent complaints over pay, equipment and conditions.

Lord Morpeth had been a major in the 9th/12th Lancers. Lord Morpeth, who is 38, and joined the army in 1967, gives his reasons for resigning in a letter to *The Times* today.

Lord Morpeth said last night that his letters of protest to the Ministry of Defence had got nowhere.

Lord Morpeth said last night that he took six months to decide to resign his commission. He said his letters of protest to the Ministry of Defence had "got nowhere". Letters, page 13

## US arms team gets green light from President

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

President Reagan has given the green light to the American arms negotiators in Geneva to press ahead to a final treaty on intermediate-range nuclear weapons. Mr Maynard Glitman, head of the US negotiating team, said here yesterday.

Mr Glitman presented to the Soviet negotiators the US draft treaty on withdrawal of the superpowers' medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe within five years, describing it as a "very complete text, including almost all verification issues". It also covers the shorter-range missiles in the 500 to 1,000 kilometres range.

He handed the draft to his Soviet opposite number, Mr Lem Masterkov, in a meeting at the American Diplomatic Mission. The two sides, each 10 strong - including two women in the US team - faced each other across a long narrow table in a relatively relaxed atmosphere.

After visiting Brussels today to brief the Nato allies, Mr Glitman will fly on to Washington and will return here early next week.

"The President is moving ahead with us here and has given the green light," he said. "We're looking forward to getting these negotiations going now in a serious way and handling all the details needed for a final treaty."

While the draft was based on proposals put forward at Reykjavik, he said, the US would prefer to go beyond the provision that each side retain 100 warheads in, respectively, Alaska and east of the Urals.

"If the Soviets would agree to that, we'd be happy to have such an outcome," he added. "We want to deal with the short-range missiles in this treaty and not separately. We believe they have to be an integral part of the agreement and have to be constrained."

According to an INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) treaty would be followed up "very quickly" with negotiations on the remaining shorter-range systems, the tactical arms. The treaty would incorporate a legal commitment on this. The Russians had recognized in 1982 that short-range systems had to be taken into an INF negotiation.

Mr Glitman, speaking to reporters as he waited to receive the Soviet negotiators, was asked about the Western European reaction to the prospect of part of the nuclear shield being dispensed with.

"We've been consulting on this issue for a long time with our allies, including military leaders," he said. "They are aware of what's in this text. We think it will strengthen Western security."

"We are trying for complete precision; we do not want to leave any ambiguities. The Soviets have said they are prepared to work forward on verification and we hope they will. On some aspects, they have at least been saying the same things as we have. When we get into details we'll see if we both really mean the same things."

He believed the fact that Mr Gorbachov had eliminated the linkage between an INF accord and other arms control measures was "really a tribute to the strength of public opinion."

Intense diplomatic exchanges between Whitehall, Washington and Moscow are under way after Mrs Thatcher's insistence that any East-West deal on medium-range missiles must be accompanied by constraints on shorter-range nuclear weapons.

Whitehall officials now believe the issue could prove a controversial point during Mrs Thatcher's summit with Mr Gorbachov later this month.

The dispute is expected to focus on claims by the West that it has no missiles in the category which it considers most relevant, known as SRINF (missiles with a range of 500 to 1,000 kilometres).

On the West's count, Moscow has about 600 SS-22, SS-23 and Scud missiles, while the West has only 70 Pershing Is kept in Germany, which it argues should not be taken into account.

Moscow is expected to insist that the Pershing Is should be included and to point out that in another category known as SINF the West has a large superiority.

These missiles, with a range of 100 to 300 kilometres, include about 1,800 American Lance missiles and about 100 Soviet SS-21s.

BRUSSELS: Belgium yesterday warned the Western allies it would delay deployment of new nuclear missiles for six months if the East-West negotiations were still underway at the end of the year. Belgium is committed to deployment of 32 cruise missile launchers this year.

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### INSIDE

#### Short wins Reykjavik chess title

In the greatest individual triumph in the history of British chess, Nigel Short, from Manchester, won the 1986 All-England Grandmaster Tournament in Reykjavik by a clear point from the former world champion Mikhail Tal. Page 2

### TIMES BUSINESS

#### Inquiry snag

DTI inspectors investigating insider dealing by civil servants have hit a snag with key witnesses refusing to give evidence. Page 19

### TIMES SPORT

#### Chelsea plan

Ken Bates, the Chelsea Football Club chairman, plans to secure the future of the club by buying the lease on the Stamford Bridge ground. Page 32

### TIMES JOBS

#### Pages of jobs

Today *The Times* carries 11 pages of General Appointments. In an introduction Professor Roland Smith, of Manchester University, says it will be the most market-orientated businesses which will profit from the many opportunities now available. Pages 33-41, 43, 44

### TIMES RESULTS

Results of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales professional examination II are published today. Page 42

### Portfolio Gold

There is £2,000 to be won today in *The Times* Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount as there was no winner yesterday. Portfolio list, page 23.

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## Lords leap to defend Queen's English

By Philip Howard

The House of Lords came storming to the defence of the English language yesterday in a lively little debate which I marked Beta Query Plus for grammar, Beta Query Minus for diction, and Alpha Query Zeta for common sense.

The Lords may no longer embrace such masters of the English language as Lords Chesterfield and Macaulay. But they offer a wide variety of accents, styles, and cranky hobby-horses.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale introduced a debate on the importance of the English language and the case for making it easier to learn. He reckoned that we should reform the spelling to standardize those dreadful "ough" words, so that we spell "plow" the American way, and "thy"

as we did in the seventeenth century.

He also suggested we get rid of the irregularities in our verbs so that we say "taught" and "dreamed" not "taught" and "dreamt", and institute a Language Reform Commission.

Lord Diamond thought that we needed to protect the purity of English from the Government itself, which in its official publications commits such bestialities as using nouns like "rubbish" as verbs, treating "data" as a singular, introducing such vulgar American prepositions as to meet "with", and otiose suffixes as in "disassociate".

Lord McNair asserted with emphasis that the best way to make English easier to learn was to teach Latin, and cited startling evidence from the United States that Latin helps reading, spelling, maths, sci-

ence, and all the branches of learning and maybe even regular bowel movements.

Lord Shaughnessy declared that the decay of English was the fault of the media.

He deplored the carelessness and hackneyed clichés and metaphors to which we are exposed all day long over the world in the press and on the airwaves. In particular he is irritated by our Fleet Street spaghetti of U-turns, the forests of banana-skins, the Arctic of ice bergs, the constant light at the end of that boring old tunnel, and the interminable end of an era.

He supposes, erroneously, that it is all the fault of the new technology of photo-composition for reducing the control of the copy editor over the words.

Lady Saltoun of Abernethy said with more truth than romantic linguistic idealism

that you cannot streamline language by legislation, nor should you try. If foreigners wanted to come and live in our beautiful country, they should take the trouble to learn our beautiful language.

In her maiden speech Baroness Strang described the Lords perily as comely and kenspeckle. Everybody agreed that the Queen's English is our chief glory.

Most Lords seem to feel that all was not well with English, which was being eroded by a sort of Dutch Elm's Disease of language that was gnawing away at its roots and destroying its enunciation. On the contrary, their debate gave a splendid example that English in its House of Lords register of stately urbanity, mutual congratulation, gentle wit, platitude and puffery, and amiable woolly-headedness is alive and well.

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## NEWS SUMMARY

## Jenkins ahead in Chancellor race

Supporters of Mr Roy Jenkins, the SDP founder, have amassed 430 nominations for his candidacy for the post of Chancellor of Oxford University.

When nominations closed this week, Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, had 186 and Lord Blake, the provost of Queen's College, had 65.

Mr Maurice Keen, chief organizer of the campaign to elect Mr Heath into the post left vacant by the death of Lord Stockton last December, said: "Some of Mr Jenkins's lobby have used the SDP machine to bring in as many nominations as they can."

He added that support for Mr Heath has just been announced from ministers including Lord Whitelaw, Lord Hailsham and Mr William Waldegrave. Mr Keen said: "This shows the idea that Mr Heath's candidacy is an anti-Thatcher campaign is all my eye and Betty Martin."

Sir Alec Cairncross, former Master of St Peter's College and a prominent campaigner for Mr Jenkins, yesterday denied Mr Keen's accusation of SDP involvement.

## Health teams hope

Expert advisory teams investigating smoking, nutrition and other health issues, which are due to be disbanded when the Health Education Council is abolished on April 1, may be kept going.

The council, which is to be replaced by the new Health Education Authority, said yesterday that it had been assured by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, that "our work will continue".

Critics have accused the Government of abolishing the HEC because of pressure against its campaigns from the tobacco, alcohol and food industries. Mr Fowler has denied the claims and that the HEA will be less independent.

Dr David Player, the HEC's director, has applied for the £35,000 a year job of chief executive of the HEA, but his supporters fear he will not be appointed because of his criticisms of Government attitudes to HEC campaigns.

## Skeleton House discovery prices up

Archaeologists have found the complete skeleton of a 2,000 year old native British horse on the site of an old Roman road in Chelmsford, Essex.

Mr David Andrews, of Essex County Council archaeology unit, said: "The find is really unusual. Normally in these times, horses were butchered for meat after death. The find is especially interesting because today's horses are very different from the older, native British horse because of centuries of intensive stock breeding."

House prices rose last month to give an annual increase to the end of February of 14.9 per cent in the Halifax House Price Index.

The figures show house prices in Greater London and the South-east are still rising strongly - up 26.8 per cent and 24.4 per cent in the last 12 months.

But even the North region shows an increase of 9.6 per cent. House prices in Yorkshire and Humberside continued their recovery, up by 10.5 per cent in the past year.

## Noise annoys

Complaints to environmental health officers about noise from domestic premises have increased seven-fold since 1975, according to Department of the Environment statistics.

The department says it is not known whether the growth in complaints was due to real increases in noise or to declining public tolerance.

Radiation levels in 1986 were higher because of Chernobyl, but the estimated extra dose for adults was less than 2 per cent of the normal background level.

## Award to Princess

Princess Anne, who became president of the Save the Children Fund 17 years ago, is to receive an award for her "outstanding contribution to young people".

She will be presented with the Variety Club's International Humanitarian Award at a dinner at the Albert Hall on May 7.

The award has previously been made to the Duke of Edinburgh, Albert Schweitzer, Winston Churchill, Sir Alexander Fleming, and Danny Kaye, who became an ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund.

## Gelignite ship in tow

The Danish freighter *Hornström*, which was adrift in the English Channel with 400 tons of gelignite aboard, was taken in tow yesterday by a Dutch salvage tug. Late last night it was off Falmouth, where bomb disposal teams will inspect its cargo.

The ship, abandoned by its crew of five early on Tuesday when it was thought that fire had broken out on board, had been shadowed by French and British warships which policed an "exclusion zone" in the Channel shipping lanes to keep all other vessels at a safe distance.

It no longer appears to be on fire but had drifted within eight miles of the south Devon coast. Contingency plans had been made to blow it up at sea.

## Zircon screening up to the BBC, says Hurd

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that it was up to the BBC to decide whether to show the film about the Zircon spy satellite which was withdrawn because of fears that it might damage national security.

Now that the Government's injunction against the film's presenter, Mr Duncan Campbell, had been lifted, a decision to show the film "is obviously a matter for the BBC," he said.

Mr Hurd's remark came at a conference on the future of broadcasting, organized by the National Union of Journalists, where the Government has given up trying to suppress the film's disclosure of a secret project to build an

## Tamils could cost airline £348,000

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman, the airline which brought in the 58 Tamils now in detention centres and hotels around Britain, could be handed a bill of up to £348,000 for their accommodation.

The cost of keeping an illegal immigrant in a detention centre is around £100 a night - twice that for using a hotel. The charges are levied for a maximum of two months against the airline which brought in the immigrant.

If the 58 Tamils are found to have entered the country on forged papers and are shown not to be genuine refugees, then the Bangladesh airline

would probably have to pick up the bill. Those Tamils being deported would have to be flown out at the airline's expense.

A spokesman for Bangladesh Biman said yesterday: "As yet, we have no idea how much we will be charged. We are just stuck in the middle of all this, but whatever happens we are definitely going to pay if we are asked."

Airlines are now regularly charged for returning illegal immigrants in detention centres. In the current financial year, 13,489 detainees have been held at airports and airlines have been sent bills

for more than £2 million for their accommodation. Each month, British Airways is understood to fly into Britain around 30 people who lack proper documentation. British Caledonian said illegal immigrants cost it about £250,000 a year.

The airlines are generally supportive of the Government's attempts to halt illegal immigration but they are concerned that their check-in staff may not have the time or the ability to notice well-forged documents. "These new penalties will undoubtedly lead to delays at airports," the International Air Travel Association said.

## New inquiry into 'false' crime figures

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Police Complaints Authority yesterday ordered a fresh investigation into allegations that detectives in Kent falsified crime statistics after a former policeman offered new information.

The woman, a former detective, came forward only hours after news that the original inquiry by Scotland Yard on behalf of the complaints authority had been sabotaged.

Scores of statements which might have verified the allegations had disappeared from Kent police stations and the Director of Public Prosecu-

tions therefore ruled against any charges. The investigation began last year after allegations by PC Ronald Walker, based at Chatham, that Kent officers had induced criminals in prison to admit offences. Detectives might feed prisoners details of offences gleaned from records, build up a confession and so bolster detection rates.

The woman, who served with the Kent force for 11 years, last night told *The Times* she had witnessed one example of the fixing of crime statistics by two colleagues and knew crime statements or reports had gone missing once

the investigation started last year.

At the time she was still a serving police officer and she said she did not come forward because she feared she would be ostracized by colleagues and that her job prospects would suffer.

She now works in the social services. The incident she witnessed involved two detectives visiting a prisoner with a catalogue of reported crimes. They returned with admissions for about 60 offences and then found the prisoner had been serving another sentence at the time.

She said that made no difference. "They carried on cooking the books because they thought no one would check on them."

She said senior officers encouraged the practice. They had to sanction prison visits and she believed officers at the rank of chief inspector and possibly above were aware of what was going on.

She said the inquiry should not have been publicly announced because officers had time "to cover their tracks".

The woman came forward after hearing local radio bulletins yesterday as the complaints authority was, in effect, announcing the inquiry's end. She made a

recording with BBC Radio Kent confirming Mr Walker's claims.

A number of serving police officers from Kent also made contact anonymously. The authority said there could be no offer of immunity but statements from policemen would be examined sympathetically.

Last night Mr Walker said he was "very pleased" that the policeman had come forward. He said he was not surprised that possible evidence had disappeared and had been told by a colleague that some papers had been shredded.

He was accompanied by Mr Marmaduke Hussey and Lord Barnett, chairman and vice-chairman of the board of governors.

The BBC's plan goes beyond a simple financial proposal, and envisages the development of a more comprehensive relationship with independents to include broad co-operation in a number of areas of production and distribution.

In financial terms the BBC proposal appears to fall short of the Government's target for 25 per cent of BBC and ITV programmes to be purchased from independents. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, reaffirmed the goal yesterday at a conference on the future of broadcasting organized by the National Union of Journalists.

BBC sources say the plan would represent a major step towards the Home Office target, while creating the basis for an entirely new relationship with the independent sector.

According to the sources, the BBC's proposal would quickly increase the value of commissioned programmes from about £1.5 million a year to something approaching £20 million.

The move would be consistent with Mr Checkland's goal of trimming BBC costs. It is generally believed that independents are capable of making programmes at a lower cost than either the BBC or the commercial stations.

But the BBC is insisting that along with providing finance to the independents, it wants to provide them with services, including marketing, technical and creative help. The BBC believes its plan will satisfy both the Government and the independents.

Mr Hurd said yesterday that the Government continues to oppose an amendment to the 1986 Broadcasting Bill calling for a substantial proportion of ITV's output to be supplied by independents.

The amendment was added in the committee stage of the Bill on Tuesday and passed with all-party support.

## Council asks 50,000 to share jobs and pay

By Craig Seton

Fifty thousand people employed by Labour-controlled Birmingham City Council are being asked if they will share their jobs and pay to cut unemployment.

The scheme would involve council staff giving up half their job and pay and advertising the "vacancies" on a job share register.

The council is the largest employer in the city, where about 17 per cent of the workforce is unemployed.

But the scheme has received a frosty reception from craft trade unions which fear that it will introduce low paid, part-time jobs. The plans are being delayed while talks continue with union officials.

The Conservative opposition has dismissed the idea as insignificant because it would create only a handful of new vacancies.

The scheme was proposed by the personnel committee, whose Labour members said that half a job was better than none.

Mr Malcolm Shepherd, the assistant personnel officer, said yesterday: "The council already has a limited job sharing scheme but we want to increase the take-up."

"Our starting point is that all jobs will be open to job sharing, although chief officers can exempt some jobs which they think cannot be satisfactorily shared."

Mr Shepherd said the scheme would not involve any extra expenditure. It would be particularly helpful, for women, including those returning from maternity leave or raising families who wanted to continue but could not manage a full week's work.

Conservative-controlled Merton Borough Council is to spend £100,000 to improve a vandalized housing estate, with orders for the work to be completed two days before a crucial by-election, on March 19.

Vandalism has been a long-term problem on the Pollards Hill estate, a vast complex of council-built properties.

The urgency of the work, which includes: fitting entrapments to flats, clearing litter and abandoned cars, removing graffiti and replacing fencing and broken paving slabs, is emphasized in in-

ternal council memoranda, but there is no suggestion of political interference.

The legality of the move is being questioned by the Labour Party, but senior officials of south London council said yesterday that it was within the law.

The marginal seat on Pollards Hill ward fell vacant after the death of a sitting Conservative councillor who held it by 29 votes. The Conservatives depend on keeping the seat to retain control of the council, which it holds with the mayor's casting vote.

Conservatives defend the spending as responding to genuine grievances from the public.

Mr Harry Cowd, leader of the council, said he had instructed chairmen of committees to spend any surplus money on priorities before the end of the financial year.



Nigel Short, from Manchester, on his way to an historic victory in Iceland at the age of 21.

## Greatest chess win for Short

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Nigel Short, the chess star from Manchester, has scored the greatest individual triumph in the history of British chess at the age of 21.

By drawing his last round game in the IBM All-Grandmaster Tournament, the score is now Karpov 2½; Sokolov 1½ with 10 games still to be played.

Short dominated the tournament which ranked category 14 on the World Chess Federation scale.

Observers were amazed by Short's dazzling performance. One experienced grandmaster, Gennadiy Sigurdsson, likened his play to that of the legendary American, Bobby Fischer.

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## BBC to propose joint ventures

By Our Media Correspondent

The BBC is preparing to make major proposals to independent producers which could see it partially adopt the system pioneered by Channel 4 of commissioning programmes from outsiders.

Mr Michael Checkland, Director-General of the BBC, presented the corporation's preliminary ideas yesterday to Mr David Mellor, the Home Office Minister of State with responsibility for broadcast-

ing. He was accompanied by Mr Marmaduke Hussey and Lord Barnett, chairman and vice-chairman of the board of governors.

The BBC's plan goes beyond a simple financial proposal, and envisages the development of a more comprehensive relationship with independents to include broad co-operation in a number of areas of production and distribution.

In financial terms the BBC proposal appears to fall short of the Government's target for 25 per cent of BBC and ITV programmes to be purchased from independents. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, reaffirmed the goal yesterday at a conference on the future of broadcasting organized by the National Union of Journalists.

BBC sources say the plan would represent a major step towards the Home Office target, while creating the basis for an entirely new relationship with the independent sector.

According to the sources, the BBC's proposal would quickly increase the value of commissioned programmes from about £1.5 million a year to something approaching £20 million.

The move would be consistent with Mr Checkland's goal of trimming BBC costs. It is generally believed that independents are capable of making programmes at a lower cost than either the BBC or the commercial stations.

But the BBC is insisting that along with providing finance to the independents, it wants to provide them with services, including marketing, technical and creative help. The BBC believes its plan will satisfy both the Government and the independents.

Mr Hurd said yesterday that the Government continues to oppose an amendment to the 1986 Broadcasting Bill calling for a substantial proportion of ITV's output to be supplied by independents.

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# New heart disease project could save 60,000 lives a year

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Up to 60,000 lives a year could eventually be saved with the help of a new project aimed at preventing premature deaths from heart disease, experts said yesterday.

Family doctors, nurses and health visitors are being urged to encourage their patients to make potentially life-saving changes in an initiative launched by the Health Education Council and the Open University.

Britons are among those most at risk from heart disease throughout the world, with about 160,000 people dying prematurely in England and Wales annually from such conditions.

But up to 40 per cent of those deaths could be avoided if doctors and other members of primary health care teams improved screening systems to detect coronary cases, and did more to change dangerous aspects of patients' lifestyles, Professor Geoffrey Rose said.

The council has funded a "study pack" on heart disease prevention which the Open University is offering to health workers. The pack contains latest scientific evidence and information on risk factors such as smoking, eating, and exercise.

"Doctors have not been equipped, when they were at medical school, with either the knowledge or the skills to practise prevention", Professor

Rose, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said.

"We know how to make substantial reductions in heart disease, but that knowledge is not being acted upon. It is unfortunately still true that doctors are trained to care for the sick, but receive quite inadequate training in prevention."

The central responsibility for health education lies with general practitioners and this pack will help them to fulfil that role.

The packs contain written and recorded material. They cost £35 for individuals and £95 for group study packs. Leaders giving details are available from the Department of Health and Social Welfare, Centre for Continuing Education, the Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.

**Liver cancer risk identified**

A possible new health risk is revealed in a study into deaths and cancers near nuclear power stations.

A report by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys has revealed unexpectedly high incidences of liver cancer near four power stations, Hinkley Point in Somerset; Bradwell, Essex; Dungeness, Kent; and Wylfa, Anglesey.

Within 10 miles of Hinkley

Point, researchers found liver cancer deaths in the 25-74 age group were almost twice the expected level, at 90.3 per cent above the predicted figure.

The report will recommend further investigation of the figures when it is published at the end of this month.

● Lung cancer victims who have worked in tin mines or some chemical industries are to qualify for benefit payments, the Government announced last night.

Mr John Major, the Minister for Social Security, announced the addition to the prescribed industrial disease list after a recommendation by the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council.

He said benefit would be paid to those who suffered from lung cancer who had worked underground in tin mines or who had been exposed to bis (chloromethyl) ether produced during the manufacture of chloromethyl methyl ether.

Workers exposed to zinc chromate, calcium chromate or strontium chromate will also qualify for benefit payments.

A DHSS spokesman said only two plants in Britain made the chemicals involved, but refused to say where they were sited.

The average benefit payment will be about £5,000 to approximately 20 people a year, officials say.



Christian Indimore and James Mealing, students at the Chelsea School of Art, are ignored by pigeons as they pose as statues in Trafalgar Square. They were making a video film, set to music by Vivaldi, about everyday objects in unusual places. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

## MP killed in crash did not use seat belt

Mr David Penhaligon, the Liberal MP, was not wearing a seat belt when he died in a road accident, an inquest was told yesterday.

The MP for Truro was killed three days before Christmas when his Rover car was hit by a delivery van which skidded on black ice.

A former village postmaster, he was on his way to pay an early morning visit to postal workers coping with Christmas mail.

Mr Alastair Lean, a part-time fireman, told the inquest that he saw the MP slumped in his seat, the lower part of his body in the foot-space of the car.

"The driver's door was jammed and, when freed, the upper part of the body fell out sideways into my arms. I don't believe that he had been wearing a seat belt."

"Nobody could have released the belt prior to our selves because they could not have entered the vehicle."

Dr Robert Marshall, a pathologist, said Mr Penhaligon, aged 42, died of massive damage to his liver and spleen and had suffered typical steering wheel injuries.

During the doctor's evidence Mr Penhaligon's brother John fainted. He tried to leave the council chamber but slumped to the floor.

Earlier, PC Rodney Grigg had said the road was "extremely slippery" with black ice. The van slid across the carriageway while on a left-hand bend and hit the MP's car on the main Truro to St Austell Road at Tresillian in Cornwall. A double-deck coach crashed into the vehicles and the van was wrecked by fire.

The van driver, Mr Tony Barry, aged 39, of Boscoppa, St Austell, was seriously hurt. Parties contesting the Truro by-election next week stopped campaigning in the city yesterday during the inquest which continues today.

## Singer's 'voracious appetite' for the law

Dorothy Squires, the singer, has developed a "voracious appetite for litigation", a High Court judge in London was told yesterday.

As a result the Attorney-General, who has been named in one of her High Court writs, is taking legal action to stop her by having her declared a "vexatious litigant." This would mean that she could not issue any further court proceedings without High Court consent.

Mr Robert Griffiths, for the Attorney-General, told Mr Justice Mann that Miss Squires starting going to law in 1971.

Since then she had launched at least 21 separate High Court actions, 20 of them since 1982. Nine had so far been struck out because they did not disclose any reasonable cause of action or were vexatious or frivolous, he said.

Miss Squires is opposing the Attorney-General's application herself. The hearing continues today.

## Sex clue in double killing

Two spinster sisters aged 92 and 81 were sexually assaulted before they were murdered at Shaw, near Oldham, four days ago, the police said yesterday.

A team of 100 officers is investigating the killing of Miss Susan Egerton and her younger sister, Florence, whose battered bodies were found at their home on Sunday. A local businessman has offered a reward.

## Moors victims hunt resumes

Det Chief Supt Peter Topping has temporarily relinquished command of Greater Manchester's detective force to resume his search for the bodies of Pauline Reade, aged 16, and Keith Bennett, aged 12, on Saddleworth Moor, Lancashire. He believes they were buried there 22 years ago.

Mr Topping has been making preliminary checks of locations pinpointed by Myra Hindley as possible burial sites.

## Man cleared

A man who denied kicking a car near News International's plant at Wapping, east London, was yesterday cleared at Thames Magistrates' Court. Mr Kenneth Johns, aged 23, of Roughton Avenue, Malden, Surrey, had been accused of threatening behaviour at a demonstration last August.

## Batting on

A proposal to sell the world's second oldest cricket bat, made in 1745 and valued at £18,000, has been overwhelmingly voted out by a meeting of the Sevenoaks Vine club in Kent.

## Oliver on air

Lord Olivier will make his first appearance on BBC radio for more than 30 years when he performs a monologue on Radio Three on May 22, the day of his 80th birthday.

## Tourism fillip as visitors return

A big recovery in overseas tourism to Britain was recorded in 1986.

The economic fillip was achieved in a year of terrorist threats, fears of nuclear fallout after Chernobyl, and a drop in the European value of the dollar.

Visitors spent £5,457 million, a total which matched the record figures of 1985.

However, the number of visitors, 13.8 million, showed a decline of 4.5 per cent on the previous year's record, but an increase on 1984.

Statistics released yesterday by the British Tourist Authority reveal that Americans, discouraged by adverse publicity last summer, had returned to Britain in large numbers by December.

Mr Duncan Black, chairman of the authority, said: "In the worst months of the year, shortly after Chernobyl, American visitor numbers to Britain were down by 48 per cent on the same month the previous year."

By December 1986, however, they had recovered to the 1985 peak, and exceeded the previous December by 10 per cent.

Visitors spent £355 million, and the number of tourists was 830,000, 2 per cent up on December 1985.

The total visitor spending

figure for 1986 was £5,457 million, compared with £5,451 million the year before.

Mr Black praised the efforts of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Ronald Reagan, the US President, in persuading Americans that Britain was a safe holiday destination.

He said the success could be traced to two main factors. One was the rapid influx of tourists after the summer, the other that US tourists accounted for only a quarter of all overseas visitors to Britain.

He said Britain had fared better overall than other European countries and predicted a record year for 1987, with up to 50,000 new jobs being created in the industry.

● A proposal to spend £27 million over the next five years to improve tourist facilities in Britain was outlined yesterday as part of a strategy to encourage people to visit the country.

A development study proposes six big projects including a waterside complex on the River Lagan, the development of tourist facilities at Carrickfergus and the coastal town of Bangor, and improvements to the zoo and the folk and transport museum.

About 600 jobs would be created if the study was implemented with the aid of funds from the EEC.

## Computer to tackle Aids virus

By Robert Matthews

Britain's world-beating Transputer, the "computer on a chip", is to be used to develop drugs to combat Aids.

Two Oxford-based companies, Chemical Design and British Bio-technology, are collaborating to exploit the enormous computing power of an array of Transputers to design drugs.

Ordinary computers are incapable of dealing with the complexity of a virus, according to Helen Gaskling, of Chemical Design, which is building a 36-Transputer system for the project.

The Transputer chip, which was developed by Inmos, the Bristol-based semiconductor company, can be incorporated into existing computers to boost their performance.

Transputers, each capable of carrying out about ten million operations a second, can also be made to work on many different problems simultaneously.

Chemical Design aims to hand over the first Transputer array to British Bio-technology in May. The company will then begin the search.

Dr Keith McCallagh, British Bio-technology's chief executive, says that his company is taking two approaches with the Aids virus.

The first is to find chemicals that can alter the internal mechanism of the virus which enables it to make copies of itself and overwhelm its human host's immune system.

The other is the development of chemicals which prevent the virus from attacking cells in the immune system.

Both call for detailed three-dimensional models of both the Aids virus and the drugs under test to be built up. The models are then used to find molecular shapes that can lock on to the virus.

According to Miss Gaskling, billions of calculations have to be carried out to find out whether a particular drug can perform in the way required, a task that even a year ago would have put the search for an anti-Aids treatment beyond the capabilities of all but a handful of organizations.

● Most senior schoolchildren and students understand the current "safe sex" advice on Aids, according to a survey published today (Our Science Correspondent writes).

Results showed 70 per cent of those aged over 16 believed promiscuity was physically dangerous, 90 per cent realized the dangers of contaminated needles, and 92 per cent understood the role of condoms in preventing infection.

WHO meeting, page 6

## VW looks at tyres that run flat out

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

A new car tyre capable of running deflated for several hundred miles should be available in three years' time.

Dr Wolfgang Linke, director of development for Volkswagen, forecasts that the run-flat tyre, which is mounted on a special wheel and has built-in shaped sidewalls, could be sold as an option for customers by 1990.

The ability to withstand a much greater distance deflated than Dunlop's ill-fated Demov run-flat tyre has raised the expectation of cars of the 1990s being sold without a spare wheel.

Dr Linke said at the Geneva Motor Show that VW was unlikely to consider such an adventurous move initially and so would offer the run-flat tyre, developed by Continental Tyres, as the spare wheel, or a narrow space-saver tyre which is already popular on the Continent.

● Ford and Vauxhall plan to make 85,000 more cars this year than in 1986 and will spend several hundred million pounds extra this year on British parts.

Mr Bill Hayden, vice-president of manufacturing for Ford of Europe, said productivity has improved markedly in British car factories. "The workforce in Britain has been cut by 40 per cent since 1980 but in 1986 we made more cars than for five years."

The strengthening of the German mark had helped Britain to become more cost competitive.

● Vauxhall's planned 25 per cent reduction in manufacturing costs over the next three years will still leave it trailing the Nissan plant in Sunderland, Mr John Bagshaw, chairman of Vauxhall, said. Currently Nissan is producing cars in Britain for up to £300 less than rivals.

## Capping urged in damages awards

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

An inquiry into a limit on the amount of damages that can be awarded in cases of professional negligence is being considered by the Government.

The legal profession, in particular, has expressed worries about the possibility of damages running into millions being imposed.

Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has told the president of the Law Society the subject is still being considered.

The president of the society, Mr John Wickerson, recently wrote to the Secretary of State pressing him to reconsider an inquiry because all the professions are having problems insuring themselves against huge negligence claims.

He said that firms of solicitors will be unable to meet liabilities.

The amount of professional

indemnity insurance available in the market is limited, he said.

Even if the market improved, there would still be cases "where insurance was just not available for the full amount of the firm's potential liabilities".

The professions have been affected by a world-wide contraction in the insurance market for indemnity cover because of the huge increase in both the number and size of claims.

The Government rejected a call for an inquiry made by the Institute of Chartered Accountants and backed by the Law Society last summer.

But Mr Wickerson said he does not agree. Although the Government says the professions face such different problems that there cannot be a common solution, they all faced the problem of obtaining adequate cover, he said.

## Danger in hailing a taxi

By Robin Young

The quality of taxis and the standard of their drivers varies greatly around Britain, according to this month's issue of *Which?* magazine.

Inspectors from the Consumers' Association found that the same journey taken at the same time of day could cost anything from £2.50 to £6.50 in London.

The cheapest ride was in a taxi hailed in the street and the most expensive in a mini cab with service that was "almost comically inept".

In other cities, price differentials were less, but standards still varied widely. Manchester's black cabs were old and scruffy, but the most comfortable vehicles were Edinburgh's "immaculate" mini-cabs.

*Which?* says that the Government should consider making all taxi drivers take the same test, and impose the same nationwide rules.

● Independent repairers are the quickest to deal with domestic equipment, according to a survey carried out by the association.

## Palace protest remand

By Robin Young

A man who is accused of attacking two policemen outside Kensington Palace, the London home of the Prince and Princess of Wales, said in court yesterday that he had hoped to talk to members of the Royal Household about unemployment.

Bela Mark Stifter, aged 27, hesitantly told magistrate Mr Eric Crowther at Horseferry Road Court, London: "I went expecting resistance from the police. I hoped to get in and meet members of the Royal Household and with due respect have a talk with them about the social problems in Britain today brought about by unemployment."

Stifter was remanded for 28 days under the Mental Health Act to Fairmile Hospital, Oxfordshire, to assess whether he is fit to plead to the charges of assault causing bodily harm and to a new charge of attempted burglary at a fire-arms warehouse in Hampshire, last December.

Reporting restrictions were lifted previously.

He will next appear before the magistrates on April 1.

## Boy George's trial evidence 'dangerous'

By Robin Young

The evidence of pop stars Boy George and Marilyn in a drug conspiracy trial would be dangerous to accept without corroboration, a judge warned a jury yesterday.

Boy George had obviously been supplied with heroin, said the judge, and any accomplice to a drugs conspiracy might be wishing to shift the blame on to someone else.

Judge Morton gave his warning while summing up in the case of Steven Luben, aged 36 and Diane Feiner, aged 35, both of Westbourne Terrace, Paddington, west London, at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

The two deny a charge of conspiring to supply heroin to Boy George, real name George O'Dowd, and others between October 1, 1985 and July 9, 1986.

Feiner also denies conspiring to supply cocaine.

Judge Morton said the jury might look askance at evidence of accomplices such as Boy George and Marilyn.

He said: "They may wish to shift blame on to someone else."

The case continues today.

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## 'Dog-days ahead' warns expelled don

By David Sapsted

A scientist at Newcastle University who has been expelled by the Kennel Club after publicly accusing it of incompetence and bias, said yesterday that his expulsion would mark "the beginning of the end" for the dog world's governing body.

Dr Malcolm Willis, a senior lecturer in animal breeding and genetics, and until Tuesday, a member of the club's breeding standards sub-committee, believes his unprecedented expulsion will lead to overwhelming demands for change from Britain's 50,000 breeders.

"I was thrown out because I broke the rule that stated a member must not criticize the club's management in the press. I regard such a rule as an infringement of civil liberties, especially in a body controlling the whole of dogdom in Britain," he said.

"There are just 650 members of the Kennel Club with a self-elected executive of 24 people. Many of them are there for their own self-advancement and don't give a damn about the dog world in general. They are simply interested in the power that membership bestows upon them."

Dr Willis, aged 52, a member of the Kennel Club for the past 15 years, criticized the organization for alleged bias against his favourite breed, the German Shepherd. He claimed that the club baulked against modernizing standards laid down for the breed.

His own work in genetics has helped to lead to more than 30,000 puppies being born without the hip displacement problem that has been

an increasing feature of German Shepherds bred specifically to meet KC standards.

Dr Willis also accuses the club of harsh treatment of clubs for the breed, and of a reluctance to grant challenge certificates to shows for the breed because it has become so popular.

Until now people had been afraid to break away from the Kennel Club because of the monopoly control exerted by the organization in this country, and its ties with 39 other countries for registration purposes.

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March 4 1987

# PARLIAMENT

## Government and Labour want housing action

### ENVIRONMENT

The problems of the homeless occupied a considerable part of environment questions, with both sides of the House forcefully pressing their ideas for a solution.

Opposition MPs condemned the lack of an adequate building programme for council housing. Conservatives took the view that there was no point in building new council homes when so many were already standing empty.

Some called for the abolition of rent control to increase the supply of privately rented homes. Empty homes, they said, must be brought into use.

Both from benches seemed to agree the need for action in three areas over empty housing — private, local authority and central government.

The exchanges began when Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that he had no doubt about the feasibility of housebuilding in the inner cities. Private housebuilders were already building about 12,000 homes a year in these areas.

“I shall continue to support housing initiatives in inner-city areas by using public money to attract substantial amounts of private investment.”

He was replying to Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L), who said that the average price of a house in Southwark was £160,000. The real need was for cheap housing for rent and affordable homes, of about £40,000, to buy.

Since prices had risen by more than 25 per cent in London in the past year, could he give an assurance, to young people especially, that there would be affordable housing for them?

Mr Ridley said that Mr Hughes was trying to involve him in local authority problems. There were many empty council houses, many in London, in other parts of the country there were also many empty houses which local authorities, if they wished, could use to house people.

Mr Patrick MacLoughlin (West Derbyshire, C) said there were many empty houses in certain areas in London. Legislation was required that would force councils to sell houses if they had been empty for six months. That would give people the opportunity to buy houses at prices they could afford.

Mr Ridley: Mr John Powley (Norwich S, C) did introduce a very sensible Bill under the 10-minute rule to let local authorities be empowered to support such a Bill if local authorities are not going to carry out their statutory func-

tions to house people in the capital.

Mr Nicholas Raynsford (Fulham, Lab) said that the private sector had a great deal more empty properties than the local authority public sector. The worst offenders of all were Government departments which had the highest proportion of vacant properties of any landlord in the country. What action would he take to get their house in order?

Mr Ridley: He invites me to take action on all three fronts. He never knows, I might.

Mr Peter Brainwala (Leicester East, C) said that in Leicester 77 properties had been empty for more than a year.

Mr Ridley: There is no point in building more council housing in areas such as Leicester when there is already a surplus (Opposition cries of “poisonous nonsense”).

If we are so short of land, as we are in this House that we are, and we want to operate a thoroughly restrictive planning policy for the countryside, then the consequences must be that we must make all available homes able to be occupied for those who want them, whether they be in the public or private sector.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on environment, said Mr Ridley had suggested he would look to act on all three areas — local government sector, private sector and where the Government was a landlord.

If he brought proposals forward along those lines, he would get a great deal of support from the Opposition.

Growing homelessness was a social scandal and was resulting in an economic cost in 1985-86 in London alone of £26 million for bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

People in such accommodation were getting an appalling deal from the Government and the taxpayers and taxpayers were paying through the nose as well. It was a scandal and Mr Ridley ought to act on it.

Mr Ridley: I look forward to meeting him behind the Speaker's chair and questions to get his signature on.

Mr Richard Hickman (Glanford and Scunthorpe, C): To have a large proportion of inner city private housing in inner London is a waste of resources, and the amount of rented property now available has dropped from 40 per cent to 10 per cent (of the housing stock). Unless he bites the bullet and abolishes rent control, that will continue for years to come in London and other cities.

Mr Ridley: The private rented accommodation sector has declined from six million to 1.5



Dr John Cunningham: Growing homelessness is a costly social scandal.

million homes. We cannot afford that loss of accommodation.

I hope we shall come to have unanimity in this House so that we can tackle these problems.

Mr Martin Plummer (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) asked the total number of people on waiting lists for rented council houses of all types at the end of 1986.

Mr Ridley: Criteria for including people on waiting lists differ from council to council, but English authorities reported 1.33 million households were on their lists in April 1986.

Mr Plummer: In answer to a question from me a few weeks ago about how many houses the Government had allowed to be built, he said that from 74,000 in 1979 it had steadily dropped to 19,000 last year. We have a waiting list of 1.3 million. We have that massive queue of people and we have homelessness all over our country. It is not sufficient to say that there are plenty of empty houses. Why not allow houses to be built for employment reasons as well as to give people a home?

Mr Ridley: The waiting list is a notoriously bad measure. Many of the people on it just want a transfer; some people are on it more than one time. Some people are asking for council housing as an insurance in case their other housing plans fail

through. There are 8,750 empty houses in Sheffield and 5,500 are in the private sector and the rest in the public sector. It makes no sense to have a massive building programme when there are 8,750 empty houses in its own city.

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton, C): The waiting lists would be reduced if accommodation was in slightly better condition. What response has he had to the generous offer of extra funds from his department to bring back into use some of the greatest estates in inner London?

Mr Ridley: Estate Action has greatly increased resources, by £75 million next year. I bitterly regret that Breat and Ealing councils have refused assistance from these resources for the homes. I hope that all local authorities, including those in London, will avail themselves of that help.

Mr William O'Brien (Normanton, Lab): Will the minister investigate the serious situation developing in the Rothwell area of Leeds where the coal board has an estate which has had houses empty for five years. They are defective, but the coal board has refused to sell them to tenants and has instead sold them to a private operator who is now asking five times the old rent but providing no structural

support, although the houses are defective.

Mr Ridley: I am always happy to investigate any problem brought to my attention, but he will not expect me to know about it before I have a chance to study it. We have written to MPs who have raised the problem and explained the position, and I think that has satisfied them.

Mr Michael Fallon (Dartington, C): Labour councils in the North-east have 10,000 empty houses ready for occupation today, and have had for five years. Will the minister do something more radical and bring forward legislation to allow them to “homestead”?

Mr Ridley: He is right. It is perfectly possible for local authorities in housing stress areas to arrange to take some houses ready and available but empty in other parts of the country, and to arrange for them to house those who they cannot house themselves. If decent authorities do not get together and house them, more drastic action will have to be taken, I agree.

Mr John Fraser, an Opposition environment spokesman, said that the number of houses built to rent last year had been the lowest in 62 years. The housing investment programme, set of capital receipts, was the lowest in real terms since 1919 (Housing

Investment Programme) was invented and, even in the past three years, the number of repair and improvement grants which would bring some private homes back into use, had dropped by 100,000.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C): If we could bring into use most of the 113,000 empty council houses and flats, it would make a dramatic impact on council house waiting lists. If we could bring into use those properties in the private sector which are under-used and unused and available for letting, but where the landlord or potential landlord is unwilling to rent because of the Rent Act, we would be able to solve the problem.

Mr Ridley: While agreeing, I would add that the Audit Commission estimates that with streamlined letting procedures, a further 20,000 local authority dwellings could be made available in London and that would make another massive increase in the stock available.

It is inefficiency in letting procedures which is another reason for the housing shortage in London. We must tackle the misuse of existing stock before going for the expensive idea of building new houses.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, L) said during later questions that the problem had been compounded by “encouraging young people to become like Dick Whittington, to leave the great northern cities and travel to London where they find the streets are not paved with jobs and end up living in Cardiff City in undignified conditions.”

Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, Urban Planning and Construction, said the Government had funded a programme by Birmingham University into the cause of homelessness and that would help to show the cause of the problem. There was no need for anyone to be homeless in Mr Alton's constituency because there were 8,000 empty properties in Liverpool.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said the best way to solve the homelessness problem was not to provide more hostel accommodation but to amend the rent legislation to bring on to the market all private rented units available but which private landlords could not afford to put on the market, and also the public sector ownership in local authority ownership. This could be rehabilitated.

Mr Patten said there was food for thought in that.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, said that 40-bed-room hotels that had been changing hands in London for £750,000 three years ago were now being bought for several million pounds so the owners could clean up at the behest of taxpayers and ratepayers and so that the premises could be used for bed-and-breakfast accommodation. It was a scandal that could not be ignored.

Mr Patten said it was precisely because of that that the Secretary of State had made available to the Housing Corporation enough money to bring in £50 million to £70 million investment in hostel accommodation that would make bed-and-breakfast accommodation unnecessary.

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## Cost of bringing in cash 'high'

### LOCAL TAX

It was likely that the cost of collecting the proposed new community charge would be double that of collecting the rates that it would replace. Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Local Government, told the Commons during questions. But he maintained that such a greater care would be taken by local authorities in their spending plans. The community charge would be one of the best bargains in the country.

Some Conservative backbenchers expressed reservations about the proposed new charge. Mr Jack Straw, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, said we are grateful to him for his admission for the first time that the cost of collecting this bureaucratic poll tax will be double that of collecting the rates, long term.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy had estimated that in the interim the collection cost would be four times the cost of rates.

The Government's own consultative document on the poll tax said there would be Orwellian checks on residents before they could use the service.

Mr Straw claimed that Mr Boyson had also tried to mislead the House about the burden of rates on one-parent families and old age pensioners. These people did not pay anything towards rates. But they would pay a lot if a poll tax came in.

Mr Boyson denied that he had tried to mislead the House. The community charge was to ensure that those voting to spend on services paid something towards them.

Mr David Haseldene-Amory (Wells, C) said that domestic rates were a fair way of funding genuine local services if other items of expenditure — such as education — were taken out and funded by central taxation. Caution should be exercised before introducing a community charge with its rebates, exemptions and collection difficulties.

Mr Robin Squire (Horsham, C) said that it had been suggested in reputable assessments that the nature of the charge was such that many people who might be assessed would avoid payment, particularly in inner-city areas where people might stay only for two or three months.

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## Policy on green belt to stay

Government ministers had made it crystal clear that there would be no change in the Government's green-belt policy, whereas the Labour Party was clearly proposing some encroachment into the green belt, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Environment, Countryside and Planning, said during questions.

He pointed out that the Daily Telegraph report of a speech by Mr Jeffrey Rooker, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, to a London conference was headlined “Labour will build in green belt”. Mr Rooker, who was speaking on the Opposition front bench called out: Who wrote the headline?

Mr Waldegrave said that the draft circular on planning and agricultural land, which had been welcomed by the Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council, emphasized that the needs of the environment must be balanced against the economic needs of small rural towns and villages and that automatic and overriding privileges should no longer be given to agricultural production.

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## Minister crassly insensitive on homelessness, MPs told

An assertion that people sleeping rough in London would be better off moving to a place where there might be a home for them set off angry exchanges during question time in the Commons.

An Opposition spokesman described the Government's attitude as crass and insensitive. The Government countered that if Labour-controlled local authorities managed their housing and budgets efficiently, the homelessness problem would be solved.

Mr Terry Patchett (Barnsley East, Lab) said that the answer was to give local authorities money for homes. Instead, Government policies were exacerbating the problem.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said there was plenty of local authority housing that could be perfectly well be used for people

who were accepted as homeless but not found accommodation straightaway. But it was not being managed efficiently.

The Government had provided extra resources for the Housing Corporation to try to help in stress areas.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab) said that many single people could not afford to buy or rent in the private sector in London. They had to sleep rough.

A whole generation of single people were being left out of the market, with no prospects.

Mr Ridley said that most such people would be eligible for housing benefit, so the question of rent did not arise.

There were three-quarters of a million more homes than there were people to fill them (Opposition shouts of “Not in London”).

Mr Ridley: They could go somewhere with a home, rather than sleep on the pavement (Labour protests).

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on environmental matters, described Mr Ridley's remarks as crass and insensitive.

He referred to a remark that in the past been attributed to Mr Norman Tebbit that people should get on their bikes and look for work. Should they follow that advice or Mr Ridley's and go looking for somewhere to live?

“Is this Government so incompetent that it cannot give people a decent home and an opportunity of a job?”

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## Scots poll tax should be tried out first, Opposition tells Secretary of State

The proposed poll tax for Scotland should be tried out in one experimental area before being imposed on the whole country, Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said when moving an Opposition new clause to that effect at the start of the report stage of the Abolition of Domestic Rates Etc (Scotland) Bill in the Commons.

The new clause also proposed the establishment of an independent monitoring commission to assess the impact of the experimental scheme.

Mr Dewar said that he was not normally in favour of the legislative equivalent of sale by sample, but the poll-tax scheme was so radical and fundamental that he thought that that approach would be appropriate on this occasion.

The proposals had been attacked root and branch by almost all those bodies with experience in the field and there was a question mark about the practicality of the scheme. Many believed it would not work and would only bring chaos and confusion.

The people of Scotland would have to pay the new poll tax had a right to know exactly how it was going to work.

All they had been presented with so far was a series of slogans and assertions. There was no very great knowledge of how the practical difficulties were going to be overcome.

The Government should recognize the essential weakness of support for the Conservative Party in Scotland and it should welcome any machinery, such as the experimental scheme

### SCOTLAND

being proposed, that would allow a pause to consider, test and, if necessary, modify the Bill in the light of public opinion in Scotland.



# Lawyers call for divorce settlements by computer

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The use of microcomputers is called for today to help initiate a radical change in the way divorce courts sort out maintenance and property between spouses, and to end costly disputes.

A discussion paper from the Law Society's family law committee says the way courts sort out maintenance and property is arbitrary, uncertain, imprecise and out of date, and based on nothing more than randomly chosen guidelines. The paper says the law fails to recognize that spouses may have their own possessions, which are not jointly owned and should not be subject to the share-out.

Not do maintenance decisions take proper account of the full income contributed by working wives, or promises that one or other spouse may have made during the marriage to his or her earning power so the partner may pursue a career.

It calls for new formulae which registrars would take as a starting point for decisions. Those could be fed into microcomputers in courts to end the present inconsistencies.

Under the proposed new formulae, decisions about the family home and possessions would be sorted out under a matrimonial property code, which for the first time would remove from the dispute arena any property that belonged to either spouse before marriage.

It would also remove anything they received by gift or inheritance, as a result of some "windfall", or which they created by their own efforts after separation.

Mr David Green, solicitor and author of the paper, says:

"There is no logical reason why the beneficial ownership of these possessions should ever be transferred to, or retained by, the other spouse."

The rest of their possessions, acquired jointly during the marriage, would then be divided equally.

Maintenance should be seen as compensation to a spouse who has made concessions, such as giving up a career to raise children, payable by the spouse who has property or may continue to profit from the concessions.

From the degree and length of the concessions the courts would determine the level and length of maintenance, based on mathematical formulae which could be programmed for a microcomputer.

The paper, which has gone to judges and legal groups for comment, is critical of the so-called "one third" rule by which courts have traditionally assessed maintenance.

Although courts deny that hard and fast rules exist, they have, "for more than two centuries", worked out maintenance on the basis that it should be equal to one third of the payer's gross income.

Mr Green suggests a formula based on a sliding scale: at one end a spouse contributing nothing to joint income would obtain one third of that income; while a spouse contributing half would merit the half he or she earns.

Where there are children, he suggests 17 per cent of the payer's income as the maximum maintenance.

*Maintenance and Capital Provision on Divorce: A Need for Precision?* by David Green (113 Chancery Lane, London WC2 1PL, £2).



The Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, chairing a meeting in central London yesterday of the National Economic Development Council, known as NEDC, which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. She is flanked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, and Mr John Cassels, the organization's director general. In the Times photograph below of the council's inaugural meeting, published on March 2, 1962, the attendance was (clockwise from left): Lord Robens, chairman, National Coal Board; Sir Oliver (later Lord) Franks, Provost of Worcester College, Oxford; Sir Robert Smeeth, the first director general (Mr (later Lord) Selwyn Lloyd, Chancellor in the Macmillan government; Mr John Hare, Minister of Labour; Mr Frederick (later Lord) Erroll, President of the Board of Trade; Mr J.N. Toothill, director, Ferranti; Dr Richard (later Lord) Bechling, chairman, British Transport Commission. (Centre row): Professor E.H. Phelps Brown, London School of Economics; Mr R. Smith, general secretary, Union of Post Office Workers; Mr Sidney (later Lord) Greene, general secretary, NUR; Mr Frank Cousins, general secretary, TGWU; Mr E.J. (later Sir John) Hunter, chairman, Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson. Mr J.M. (now Sir Maurice) Laing, managing director, John Laing and Son; Mr William (later Lord) Carron, president, AEU; Mr George Woodcock, general secretary, TUC; Mr H. Doolan, general secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation; Mr C.E. Harrison, vice-chairman, English Sewing Cotton Company; Mr Francis (later Lord) Cockfield, managing director, Boots Pure Drug Company; and Mr R.M. Geddes, managing director, Dunlop Rubber Company. (Yesterday's photograph: Stephen Markeson).

## Fight over cost of ship safety

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

Plans by the Department of Transport to increase charges to ship-owners for the cost of lighthouses and other navigational aids have drawn the combined opposition of the Labour Party, the Confederation of British Industry, and the shipping industry.

The department has laid orders before Parliament to increase the charges by almost 14 per cent. But the British Ports Association says the costs of using British ports are already too high compared with continental ports, many of which are supported by public funds.

The charges, known as light dues, are levied on owners of ships entering British ports, and raise £46 million a year.

A source close to the ports industry said it was rare for the ports, ship-owners and other industrial interests to be so united in opposition to government action. "Even if they push these increases through we shall continue to fight against the existence of light dues", he said.

The ports authority, the General Council of British Shipping, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and other bodies have been campaigning against the increases. Now, however, an early day motion has been tabled in the Commons in the names of Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader, and other Labour MPs, calling on MPs to reject the increases.

The General Council of British Shipping said yesterday that within five years cheap satellite navigation systems would enable almost any merchant ship to fix its position within 100 yards by day or night, in sunlight or in fog, without the need for other aids.

Yachtsmen, who most needed them, paid nothing, and fishermen and Royal Navy vessels were exempted from making any contribution.

Sir Terence Beckett, of the Confederation of British Industry, wrote earlier this week to Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, asking for light dues to be abolished.

By the end of last year the British-owned and registered shipping fleet had for the first time fallen to under 10 million deadweight tons from 50 million tons 11 years earlier. In the same period the number of ships had fallen by more than two-thirds to just over 500.

The figures, for ships of more than 500 tons, are given by the General Council of British Shipping in its annual review of the industry.

Mr Garry Runciman, president of the general council, refused to say that the merchant fleet would no longer be able to meet the demands of war.

## Minister raises hopes of 3-year arts funding

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The Government is planning a big change in its arts funding policy by introducing a three-year arrangement for the principal institutions.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said yesterday that moving towards such a system would permit long-term artistic plans to be made on a sounder financial basis.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher recently expressed interest in the proposal, but Mr Luce's remarks said it was uncertain whether the details would be finalized before the beginning of the financial year next month.

Mr Luke Rittner, secretary-general of the council, has cautioned against any suggestion that three-year funding would resolve Covent Garden's cash problems. "It may help in long-term planning, but it will not in itself be the solution", he said.

Addressing an international conference in London on arts funding, Mr Luce said the arts required continuity and stability.

The first beneficiary may be the Royal Opera House, whose grant for 1987-88 has been delayed by discussions on the new system.

However, the Arts Council said it was uncertain whether the details would be finalized before the beginning of the financial year next month.

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## Plea for off-peak air fares on Euro flights

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Hundreds of aircraft are flying around Europe with only a third of their seats filled, it was claimed yesterday.

The flights, usually at off-peak times, could be filled if airlines were allowed to charge lower fares to attract customers to the less popular times, according to Mr Michael Spicer, the Minister for Aviation.

However, many countries are resisting Britain's attempts to create lower prices, he told a meeting of European students in London. "It is fares which people care most about and by which the success of the Community in this field will be judged by the people at large", Mr Spicer said.

"But our efforts to ensure that people can have the benefit of cheaper off-peak travel are still being resisted by several countries - the French, Italians, Spanish, Portuguese and Greeks in particular."

"I find it deeply regrettable that some states are still resistant to even moderate common sense changes. The introduction of off-peak fares will help travellers and airlines, not least because they will fill empty seats."

"Many off-peak European flights are less than 50 per cent full. That is absurd given the latent demand, for instance, among people like yourselves for reasonably priced air fares."

## Prices watchdog 'failing public'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Consumers are not being adequately protected by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission against high prices, waste, inefficiency and over-manning in the nationalized industries, the Commons Public Accounts committee has concluded.

In a report yesterday, the all-party committee rejected evidence from the Government and announced that it would re-open the question of accountability of monopoly industries.

The report will come as a further embarrassment to the Department of Trade and Industry, which gave the commission powers to investigate the performance of nationalized industries on behalf of the consumer in 1980, and which is already under fire over its mergers policy.

The MPs note that it is the Secretary of State for Trade who, after consultation with the industry and its sponsoring department, chooses the subjects of the commission's investigations, not the commission itself.

They believe the commission should play a greater role in choosing the subjects of inquiry and so deflect any suspicion that a sponsoring department was trying to deflect it away from areas that department would prefer not to have examined.

The report notes that the commission has no statutory right to examine nationalized industry's books and records. In evidence it claimed to have "developed a nose" for the information it required, but the committee concluded that it could not always be sure any information received was accurate.

The report criticizes the Government's arrangements for ensuring that the commission's recommendations are acted upon, and says there must be some subsequent external check.

It also rejects the Government's claim that its programme of investigations since 1980 had been "impressive and balanced".

*Fourth Report of the Committee of Public Accounts: Efficiency of Nationalized Industries - References to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Stationery Office, £3.80).*

## Universities to aid small businesses

By David Sapeid

An attempt to convince thousands of smaller businesses of the need to get involved in research and development work is being planned by the Government and four universities.

They want to encourage firms employing between five and a few hundred people - the industrial sector with by far the worst R&D record - to use university facilities.

A 30-minute video, made by Southampton University and explaining the possibilities and benefits of such co-operation, will be presented to the Department of Trade and Industry next week.

Dr Michael Clark, head of the geodata unit at Southampton and chairman of the British Education Film and Video Council, said: "At the moment, the smaller businessman tends to take a jaundiced view of universities and, to be fair, some universities have taken a jaundiced view of getting involved in research with anyone but the big, glamorous firms."

"What we are trying to show in the film is how smaller companies can link-up with higher education for their research... and how it can be a cost-effective way of keeping ahead of competition."

The £16,000 film, mainly DTI sponsored, features companies involved with Southampton, Loughborough, Birmingham and Edinburgh universities.

The time has come for larger companies to take more risks and regain the entrepreneurial spirit lost during the recession, Mr Bryan Nicholson, Manpower Services Commission chairman, told the Royal Society of Arts last night (Our Employment Affairs Correspondent writes).

"My overwhelming impression is that many bigger employers have become obsessed not with development but with staying alive. Not all companies made that mistake; some were enlightened enough to continue to plan for the longer term future, even when trade was at its lowest level."

Even those which adopted a bunker mentality should be emerging to take advantage of operating more efficiently than many thought possible.

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Even those which adopted a bunker mentality should be emerging to take advantage of operating more efficiently than many thought possible.

## Sex pest boss trapped by secret tape

A woman said to have worn scanty and provocative clothes at work suffered sexual harassment by her employer, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday.

The tribunal at Southampton found that Miss Karen Wileman, aged 25, was subjected to improper sexual harassment by Mr Raymond Athill, aged 44, a director of Minic Engineering, Andover, Hampshire.

Mr Athill had denied Miss Wileman's claims but had secretly been tape-recorded while talking about pornography and suggesting she should go topless on holiday.

The tribunal said Miss Wileman, of Conholt Park, Andover, who had earned £3,200 an hour as a soldier, should receive compensation. If the parties cannot agree on the amount there will be another hearing.

## Women told to pay back 'brothel grant'

Two women who used government money to run a brothel were ordered yesterday to repay part of it.

Bernadette Hughes, aged 32, and Nazaren Ahmed, aged 24, were told by Newport magistrates to pay £200 each in compensation to the Manpower Services Commission and £300 each to the Department of Health and Social Security for falsely claiming £3,550 in unemployment benefit.

Ahmed, of Princes Place, Bristol, was also ordered to do 140 hours of community service. Hughes, of Cedar Road, Newport, Gwent, was given a three-month jail sentence suspended for two years.

The women had joined a scheme to help the unemployed to start businesses and were paid £1,760 in grants by the commission for five months.

## Artificial springtime to test fall-out

By Peter Davenport

Government scientists have created an artificial springtime in laboratories at Bristol University to help to determine what effect the Chernobyl nuclear disaster will have on spring lambs.

Sods of grass from affected areas in North Wales and Cumbria, which are still the subject of restrictions, have been cultivated under artificial sunlight to stimulate their early growth.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries officials hope that the results, expected within the next few weeks, will indicate that the new lambs will be in no danger from natural grazing.

The experiments are part of the continuing monitoring of the effects of the fallout from Chernobyl.

Although the restricted areas have declined, there are still about 300,000 sheep on 466 farms throughout the British, mostly in North Wales and Cumbria, still affected. More than £4 million has been paid out in compensation to farmers.

In Cumbria, about 150 farmers in an area stretching from Broughton-in-Furness to the Lakes are still affected.

In North Wales, about 200,000 sheep on 315 farms are still under restriction.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in a letter to Cumbrian farmers, said that medical and veterinary experts believed the doses of radioactive caesium suffered by sheep were too low to cause infertility or birth defects in lambs.

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## WORLD SUMMARY

## Italian leaders in coalition wrangle

President Cossiga of Italy yesterday began negotiations with political leaders intended to put together a coalition government (Roger Boyes writes). The betting is on the emergence of a Christian Democrat-led government headed by Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister.

The problem is what price Signor Andreotti's partners will exact for membership of a new coalition. The Socialist Party under Signor Bettino Craxi, who gave up the post of Prime Minister on Tuesday after 3½ years of stable government, will be the most demanding. Strategists say that Signor Craxi may make impossible demands with the aim of forcing a general election in June.

Signor Craxi is confident that he can improve the standing of the Socialists, who command about 11 per cent of the vote compared to the Christian Democrats' 34 per cent, at an election.

## More aid to Kenya

Nairobi — On his first visit to Kenya since being appointed Minister of Overseas Development, Mr Christopher Patten has announced that Britain is giving Kenya another £50 million in grants for aid projects still to be identified (Charles Harrison writes).

Kenya is the biggest recipient of British aid in Africa, having received more than £500 million since independence in 1963.

## Harare review

Harare — A High Court judge this week ordered a Zimbabwe tribunal to examine the cases of two men, one a Briton, held for nearly 10 months in connection with a South African commando raid here last year (Jan Raath writes).

Mr Richard Woodcroft, aged 44, of Rugby, Warwickshire, and Mr Albert Dube were arrested after South African forces blew up African National Congress premises here.

## Aids travel curb veto

Geneva — An unequivocal recommendation against the screening of travellers for Aids has been given by public health experts from 12 countries who yesterday ended a three-day consultation meeting at World Health Organization headquarters (Alan McGregor writes).

They were called on to answer a series of questions relating to mass screening and possible precautions to be taken on public transport with the aim of preventing the spread of the disease.

The experts, who included Dr R. Feacham, of the London School of Tropical Medicine, concluded that screening of international travellers would "retard only briefly the spread of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), both globally and with respect to any particular country".

NEW YORK: Barring some dramatic advance in Aids treatment or prevention, more than a million Americans will have developed the disease by the year 2000, according to a Louis Harris survey based on interviews with 227 scientists, including six Nobel Prize winners.

## Waldheim for Jordan



Dr Kurt Waldheim, left, yesterday received his first official invitation to visit a foreign country since his election as President of Austria last year (Richard Bassett writes from Vienna). King Hussein of Jordan asked him to make a state visit, a gesture received with delight by Dr Waldheim's office and interpreted here as ending his diplomatic isolation. "The ice has been broken," a close aide said.

## Editor resigns

Islamabad — Mushahid Hussain, editor of *The Muslim*, the English-language daily, who is said to have introduced Kuldip Nayyar, the Indian writer of a controversial interview with Dr A.Q. Khan, the Pakistani nuclear scientist, has resigned his post (Hasan Akhtar writes).

## Vanunu trial plea

A campaign to persuade the Israeli Government to hold a public trial for Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the *Sunday Times* informant, was launched here yesterday by his brothers, supported by left-wing and peace movement activists (Ian Murray writes). Mr Vanunu has been held in solitary confinement for five months after being brought to Israel by Mossad agents to stand trial for treason and espionage. His lawyer has lost an appeal for a public hearing.

Mr Meir Vanunu showed a press conference a copy of a letter his brother wrote when he decided to go to London to tell his story about Israel's nuclear arsenal. It said he had decided on the action after looking at all the dangers and the moral and political issues involved.

## Singapore budget hits gamblers

Singapore (Reuters) — Gamblers, drinkers and smokers in Singapore will have to pay more for their pleasures to support the business community and prospective third- and fourth-child parents.

This was the gist of yesterday's 1987-88 budget speech by Mr Richard Hu, the Finance Minister.

The budget envisages a deficit of S\$3.75 billion (£1.19 billion), which will be financed through domestic borrowing or a draw on reserves.

Mr Hu said there was no room for further direct tax cuts and called for greater prudence in all areas.

He said that although Singapore's economy grew last year by 1.9 per cent after contracting 1.7 per cent in 1985, there were "still hazards along the path to full recovery".

Mr Hu announced tax breaks for the promotion of offshore services, such as consultancy and management, and introduced improvements in incentives aimed at promoting Singapore as a financial services centre.

But the biggest beneficiaries were prospective third- and fourth-child parents.

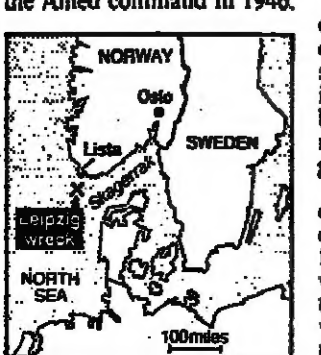
## Norway to inspect sunken gas ship

From Tony Saustag, Oslo

Norwegian scientists hope to photograph the wreck of the German cruiser *Leipzig*, which was filled with poison gas and scuttled by the Allies after the Second World War. 2,000 ft under the North Sea, the government said.

Professor Frode Fonnum, a toxicologist with the Norwegian Defence Research Institute, said work would begin later in the spring. Underwater television cameras would be used to inspect the state of corrosion in the wreck, which was filled with mustard gas and other chemical agents.

The *Leipzig* is one of a fleet of up to 30 warships that were filled with poison gas canisters encased in concrete, towed out to sea and sunk by the Allied command in 1946.



## Turkish jets blast Kurd hideouts

Sinrak, Turkey (AP) — Turkish jets bombed Kurdish rebel targets in Iraq yesterday, destroying their camps and ammunition dumps in retaliation for recent attacks near this frontier town which killed 34 civilians, the Government said. Iraq was notified in advance.

A detailed report on the extent of damage and casualties will be prepared after a study of aerial photographs taken during and after the bombardment, a General Staff statement said.

Kurdish rebels raided a frontier village 10 days ago and killed 14 peasants, most of them women and children, bringing to 34 the number of villagers killed in the south-east region of Sinrak in the past month, authorities said.

Right of pursuit: Yesterday's bombing of Kurdish villages in northern Iraq by 30 Turkish planes is the latest in about 20 such attacks since

1984, when Iraq, bogged down by its war with Iran, allowed Turkey the right of hot pursuit of terrorists into its territory along the two countries' common border (Hazine Taitourian writes).

In addition, there have been two big incursions into Iraq by units of the Turkish Army.

The attacks have usually been preceded by terrorist acts by separatist Kurds from east-

ern Turkey, who are said to have set up bases in the no-man's-land of Iraqi Kurdistan, a huge mountainous region which has never been fully controlled by Baghdad since the creation of the Iraqi state.

But the Kurds of Iraq say that the targets of the Turkish attacks are bases belonging to the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Government of Iraq, to blow up the northern Iraqi oil pipeline to the Turkish port of Iskenderun, they have no intention of doing so.

Nevertheless, Turkey has been nervous about the westwards spread of Kurdish-held territory in northern Iraq and is determined to prevent the Kurds from establishing control over the route of the pipeline.

The pipeline is buried underground and runs parallel to an important road that links Baghdad to Ankara and is used by thousands of Turkish and East European lorries carrying goods and equipment into Iraq.

The latest Turkish attack, which seems to have been heavy enough to flatten a number of Kurdish villages, is likely to further complicate relations with Tehran, which has accused Turkey of helping Iraq in the Gulf War.



Bahrain (Reuters) — Iraq yesterday announced a new offensive against Iraq among the snow-capped peaks of Kurdistan on the northern front, as its forces reported capturing Iraqi fortifications near Basra in the south.

Iranian radio reports said the attackers had captured Iraqi mountain fortifications in Kurdistan and fighting was continuing, some of it hand-to-hand. One Iraqi battalion had been wiped out and two brigades severely mauled, it added.

The Haj Omran area, where the fighting is reported, was the scene of bitter battles during an Iranian cross-border thrust in mid-1983. It is situated about 80 miles north of Iraq's vital Kirkuk oil centre.

## Barber in death camp describes 'Ivan' atrocities

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The oldest living survivor from Treblinka, Mr Gustav Boraks, aged 85, struggled here yesterday to remember his days as a barber in the death camp, where his job was to shave the heads of women before they were sent to the gas chambers.

He gave a rather uncertain identification of a photograph of Mr John Demjanjuk, who is accused of being "Ivan the Terrible", the Ukrainian gas chamber operator at the camp. He spoke haltingly and in Yiddish, which one of the three judges, Mr Zvi Tal, translated into Hebrew for the court. Under cross-examination his memory failed him and he asked for a special adjournment of proceedings before the lunchtime break.

With questions asked in English, translated into Hebrew and then into Yiddish and back again through the languages for the benefit of Mr Mark O'Connor, the defence counsel, the proceedings were long and difficult for everyone.

Mr Boraks said he had been made to give up his barber's shop when Germany invaded Poland, and that he eventually moved into the Cracow ghetto where he ended up in a Gestapo prison for failing to wear his Jewish armband.

Taken to Treblinka, the men on his transport were asked if there were any barbers among them "to cut the hair of

the women before they were slain. I didn't raise my hand because my wife and children were going to be killed".

But someone else told the guards that he was a barber and he was beaten and made to go to the camp barber's shop, where 15 or 16 of them cut off the women's hair.

"The women were afraid to come in, 'Ivan' would take his bayonet and force them in. He pushed them into the barber shop. Sometimes they were wounded with whole pieces of flesh hanging off behind them."

The barbers were summoned to work by the blowing of a whistle each time a transport arrived. The hair was sorted, cleaned by being heated, and then baled.

When there were no transports, he would work at sorting out clothes or collecting branches in the forest to camouflage the fences round the extermination area. Once he was carrying a tree with a youngster of about 18, who was so weak that he fell down.

"Ivan" walked over to where he fell and shot him."

Frequently as he gave evidence Mr Boraks confessed that he just could not remember details. During the cross-examination Mr O'Connor concentrated on earlier testimonies he had given to other war crimes trials, looking for inconsistencies in the old man's story.



Ms Marion Arnold, left, riding a camel near the Sphinx and the Pyramids in Giza, near Cairo, yesterday, with Ms Maureen Paleschi, after the two sisters were freed on bail by the Egyptian authorities. They were arrested on February 15 after Customs officials at Cairo airport found 13 lb of heroin inside a wooden elephant in their luggage.

## Amal frees 625 Palestinian captives

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The Shia Muslim Amal militia released 625 Palestinian prisoners yesterday, apparently on the orders of the Syrian military commander in west Beirut.

The Palestinians had been variously held in Amal dungeons in the west of the city — many of them in cells inside the unfinished Murr Tower office block.

No information about their treatment was immediately available, although there have been consistent reports of beatings in Amal's prisons.

At one point during the recent battles between PLO guerrillas and Amal militiamen, up to 1,000 Palestinian

prisoners were held, some in underground jails in Bourj al-Barajneh.

Amal, however, has long been Syria's creature — the word "ally" is one to be used carefully here — and there was no explanation yesterday as to why these men had not been freed earlier.

It is equally unclear how many other prisoners are being held by Amal — or whether any Shia Lebanese are currently held by the Palestinians. Christian Phalangist militiamen are thought still to be holding up to 100 Druze and Shia Muslim hostages at Tarj, high in the mountains north-east of Byblos.

Meanwhile, in west Beirut yesterday a badly wounded

employee of the Turkish Embassy was found lying in his apartment, the victim of two masked gunmen.

On the face of it, the incident — which took place in the Treik Jdeide district — was a deliberate attempt to sabotage the Syrian security plan in the city.

However, the shooting appeared to have been the result of a personal dispute rather than a deliberate attempt to sabotage the promises of both Mr Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, and the Syrian Army commander here that foreigners could safely return to the Muslim sector.

Elsewhere in west Beirut, the Syrians continued to try to win the hearts and minds of

the Lebanese, this time by handing out copies of *Tishrin*, the Government-controlled Syrian newspaper, at checkpoints in the city.

It is, even for the Lebanese, somewhat unusual to have a car searched by a heavily-armed soldier who then politely hands out a newspaper free of charge. But the point could not be lost on the recipients.

*Tishrin*'s latest edition contains a page of photographs showing women shoppers in Hamra Street, just walking on the seafloor, corniche and Syrian troops chatting to Lebanese soldiers. The message is clear: Syrians are good for you.

Spectrum, page 10

## Man in the news

## Honest Webster to fight on

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr William Webster, a teetotal, non-smoking Christian Scientist, is a quiet, almost ponderous man who was planning to retire in solitude to his Missouri farm early next year at the end of a 10-year term as head of the FBI.

His decision, instead, to accept President Reagan's nomination to become director of the Central Intelligence Agency was widely applauded on Capitol Hill yesterday, and his appointment is virtually certain.

He has a reputation for absolute integrity and strict adherence to the rules. He has resisted pressures put on him by Mr Edwin Meese, the right-wing Attorney-General, who is said to have wanted him to cut certain corners. He has breathed new life into the FBI, dragging it out of a preoccupation with bank robbers and car thieves, and into the modern era of fighting political corruption, illegal drugs, organized crime and terrorism.

He is well known on the Washington social circuit, especially in the top tennis clubs, but after nine years at the FBI — Congress imposed a 10-year limit after the mammoth ten-



Mr Webster: well-known in Washington social circles.

ure of J. Edgar Hoover — he felt it he knew that he was ready to go home. Friends said he was shattered by the death of his wife Drustilla in 1984. But once the Iran-Contra scandal broke he decided he had to stay to the end.

He had virtually to be dragged into accepting the FBI job, which he regarded as discredited and tarnished by exposures of improper activities such as surveillance campaigns, illegal wiretaps and a purge on radical and civil rights groups.

William Hedgecock Webster was born in St Louis, and received a bachelor's degree from Amherst College. He graduated from the Wash-

ington University law school in St Louis in 1949. He prospered in Missouri legal circles and in 1960 was named United States attorney for the eastern district of Missouri. President Nixon named him to the federal bench in 1971, eventually elevating him to the Federal Court of Appeals.

Mr Webster, who will be 63 tomorrow, relished the role of judge and likes to be known as Judge Webster. He still speaks in a slow, precise manner, as though he were addressing a jury after a long trial. His appointment to the CIA could eventually place him in a strong position to achieve his ambition to sit on the Supreme Court. He is a Republican.

When he arrived at the FBI Mr Webster launched himself into rebuilding the bureau's reputation and ending the Hoover-era baggage of an all-white, all-male force.

But there have been crises, such as the furor over the capture of videotape in 1979 of several members of Congress in the FBI's "Abcon" operation. He may be questioned at his confirmation hearings about his defence of Mr Edwin Meese, who waited several days before calling in the FBI to investigate the Iran affair last November.

## COMMENTARY

Geoffrey Smith

Washington — Mr Gorbachev's latest disarmament proposal "shows that the Russians have not given up of President Reagan", according to Mr Kenneth Adelman, director of the United States Arms Control and Development Agency. One can sense the sigh of relief behind those words.

The great fear of the Reagan Administration now, which I have heard on all sides over this past week, is that its final two years may prove to be a debilitating anticlimax.

A battered President, unable to mobilize a disillusioned public opinion to overcome a hostile Congress, might no longer be taken seriously at home or abroad. So there is an even greater desire than usual for some dramatic success to demonstrate that Mr Reagan is still able to govern effectively.

It is hard to see what major breakthrough there might be in the domestic field. So hopes have been concentrated on arms control, and Mr Gorbachev's offer may seem to present the ideal opportunity.

This means that the American response to the Soviet initiative is first and foremost political. The defence implications, and some of the misgivings in Europe, are acknowledged and reported. But in most of the conversations I have had it is the

## Desire for arms deal is political

political desire for a deal that has been uppermost.

This is understandable, but disturbing. For the first time since President Reagan came to power he is in danger of doing what he always said he would never do: negotiate with the Soviet Union from weakness.

The weakness is political not military, but no less destructive to sound judgement. When one side is so eager for any sort of agreement there is less inclination to scrutinize the deal with care. Political considerations are all the more likely to predominate because the American foreign policy community is divided on the merits of Mr Gorbachev's proposal.

Some see the offer as a constructive move to get the arms control process moving again. They do not believe that the American commitment to Europe depends on deploying intermediate nuclear missiles. Others see the danger with great clarity. There have always been two arguments for deploying medium-range missiles in Europe: as a counter to the Soviet SS 20s and to couple the United States more securely to the defence of Europe.

The second argument would still apply even if there were no SS 20s at all. There would still be superior Soviet conventional strength in Europe.

## Gift for Kinnock in election run-up

which could be countered only by building up Western conventional forces to approximate equality or by maintaining confidence in the American nuclear commitment.

But the first course will simply not be taken, and the second would be weakened by withdrawal of all medium-range missiles from Western Europe. An agreement precisely on Mr Gorbachev's lines would therefore not be in Western Europe's interest.

It would have an effect in Washington if Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl were to say so firmly. But they have earlier gone along with the zero-zero option for Europe, probably on the assumption that the Soviet Union would never be willing to take away all its SS 20s.

Mrs Thatcher specifically endorsed the tentative Reykjavik deal on missiles when she visited President Reagan at Camp David last November. Her only conditions were that there should be satisfactory arrangements on verification and on shorter-range missiles in Europe.

These are the points she is emphasizing again now. But at Camp David she accepted the principle of removing all medium-range missiles from Europe, while allowing the Soviet Union to keep a hundred of these highly-mobile weapons in Asia.

How could she go back on this central issue now without presenting Mr Kinnock with a political gift in the run up to the election?

So there is the risk that political considerations of one sort or another on both sides of the Atlantic will inhibit Western governments from taking a properly sceptical attitude towards a dubious proposal.

his reaction

in Penang  
case tells  
death threat

ings ahead  
al battle



## Soviet arms proposals

## Paris reactions betray differences

From Diana Geddes  
Paris

Interesting nuances in French attitudes to the latest Soviet arms proposals emerged yesterday when President Mitterrand made public his own views, which appeared more positive than the somewhat cool government response earlier.

Mitterrand, who considers defence one of his few remaining presidential prerogatives, is said to have been angered by the reported failure of the conservative Government to consult him before putting out on Sunday an official reaction in which any note of welcome was absent.

Instead, the statement emphasized France's hostility to any attempt to "de-nuclearize" Europe, and repeated the three French conditions for an agreement on Euro-missiles: the pact must cover Asia as well as Europe; it must include constraints on short-range missiles as well as on longer-range Pershing, cruise and SS 20 missiles; and there must be rigorous verification controls during and after implementation of the agreement.

Mitterrand does not disagree with those conditions: he drew them up with the previous Socialist Government. But he believes, with evidently greater conviction than the present conservative administration, that the possibility of the abolition or

## Gorbachov to visit Latin America

Moscow — Mr Gorbachov has confirmed that he is planning the first trip by a Soviet leader to Latin America, and has talked over details with Señor Athos Fava, head of the Argentine Communist Party (Christopher Walker writes).

Señor Fava said yesterday that the trip had been raised during a three-hour meeting in the Kremlin, and that Mr Gorbachov had expressed his enthusiasm. "He is keen to go and he agreed with us the importance of the visit," he

reduction of Euro-missiles is "in the interests of France and of peace".

Speaking at yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Mitterrand pointed out that the so-called "zero option" — complete abolition of both US and Soviet medium-range missiles from Europe — had first been adopted by Nato in 1979, and had been reconfirmed in 1981 and 1986. He said he had learnt "with real interest" of the proposals on medium-range missiles (INF) put forward by Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader.

However, he emphasized that there was no question of France's own deterrent nuclear force being included in the negotiations, either now or in the future.

On that last point, there is

perfect agreement between the Socialist President and the conservative Government led by M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister. France has always insisted that its nuclear missiles are designed to defend the nation's "vital interests" and as such should be considered as strategic, although intermediate in range.

Mr Chirac seemed to soften the earlier government line when he told the Cabinet that any negotiation leading to a balanced, simultaneous and controlled reduction of Euro-missiles could not be met with "a negative reaction on our part". However, it would not be correct to describe his own and Mitterrand's views on Mr Gorbachov's proposals as being "com-

pletely convergent", as M Chirac did yesterday.

The Government is clearly more worried than Mitterrand could mean for France's defence policy. It is also more worried than the President about the danger of a "de-coupling" of the US from Europe if the "zero option" was adopted.

At present, those fears are being kept private at the official level. But M Pierre-André Wilton, an MP in the non-Gaullist UDF party and a leading supporter of M Raymond Barre, has spoken of the Soviet proposals as a "formidable trap", while M Jacques Baumel, vice-president of the Gaullist RPR party, said they marked the beginning of the withdrawal of the

Americans from Europe and struck "a terrible blow" at the Alliance.

Such deep distrust of Soviet motives is not restricted to the right. M Paul Quilès, former Socialist Defence Minister, has described the Russian proposals as a "trompe l'oeil" designed "to place the Americans in a difficult position and also to create disarray in Europe".

On the other hand, M Jean-Pierre Chevènement, leader of one of the four main factions in the Socialist Party, has given a warm welcome to the proposals, calling them a "historic opportunity".

The overall French attitude to both Mr Gorbachov's latest proposals and to his efforts to "liberalize" and open up Russian society was probably best summed up by M Jean-Bernard Raimond, the Foreign Minister.

He spoke of the need for a "double vigilance" both to make sure that the West did not miss real changes in the Soviet Union, and to avoid being duped and making unnecessary concessions on Western interests.

Despite the apparent differences in the official British and French reactions to the Soviet proposals, M André Girard, the Defence Minister, and Mr George Younger, his British counterpart, are expected to find substantial common ground when they meet in Paris next Monday to discuss the Soviet offer.



Mr Charles Schmidt with his newly-unveiled mural of the Challenger crew, which adorns the Brumidi corridor of the Capitol building in Washington outside the High Scott Room, named after a former senator. Constantino Brumidi, an Italian, left blank spaces on walls so that future historic events could be recorded. The crew died in January last year.

## EEC agree on cutting butter mountain

Brussels — EEC agriculture ministers have agreed rules for suspending the automatic stockpiling of surplus butter, in an unprecedented bid to curb the growth of the butter mountain. (Our Correspondent writes).

The decision, reached unexpectedly in the early hours of yesterday, gives the Brussels authorities powers to close EEC butter stores for the first time in the history of the common agricultural policy.

## Crash payout

Yokohama (AFP) — The Yokohama district court has ordered the Japanese Government to pay 45.8 million yen (£195,000) to a mother and two children injured when a US fighter ploughed into Yokohama suburbs.

## Fallout cash

Cologne (AP) — The West German Government has paid DM290 million (£103 million) in compensation to farmers and other businesses harmed by fallout from the Soviet nuclear accident at Chernobyl last year.

## Party beach

Budapest (Reuters) — Hungary is to set up a nudist beach as part of a £20 million development for Lake Balaton.

## Briton in Penang heroin case tells about death threat

Kuala Lumpur (AP) — A Briton on trial on drug trafficking charges told the Penang High Court yesterday that he carried heroin because he was threatened by an organization, the national news agency, Bernama, reported.

In other testimony yesterday, a psychiatrist from London said the defendant, Mr Derrick Gregory, aged 38, is suffering from a serious personality disorder.

Dr Colin Brewer said Mr Gregory had suffered from a serious illness that affected his brain, leaving him with below-average intelligence.

Mr Gregory, from Surrey, is charged with trafficking in 20.32 oz of heroin. He was arrested on October 7 1982 at the Bayan Lepas International Airport in Penang, 180 miles north-west of Kuala Lumpur.

If convicted, Malaysian law requires a sentence of either death or life imprisonment. Bernama said Mr Gregory told the court he first saw heroin in a hotel in Penang on the morning he was arrested. A Chinese-speaking man named "Tyron" or "Turn" handed him packets of the drug to be smuggled out and,

when he refused, the man said he would "become dirty on me". Mr Gregory said this meant he would be killed, adding that the man also threatened to kill his wife and daughter in England.

Mr Gregory said he had become indebted in London to a man named Paul Dye. He said Dye had offered to cancel the debt if he went along with an arrangement that included going abroad.

Mr Gregory said a man named John Humphries provided him with a passport that described him as a cloth dealer. He then spent a week in Penang in July 1982. In September, he said, Dye told him to return to Penang and wait at the Bayview Beach Hotel for a contact he knew as "Jack" or "Ken".

He said "Jack" met him at the hotel and told him he was supposed to smuggle for the "organization" since it already had spent too much money on him. He became frightened, but was threatened by Jack and later by "Tyron".

Mr Gregory chose to make a statement from the dock on which he cannot be cross-examined by the prosecution.

## Drug rings ahead in global battle

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The international battle against illegal drugs is failing. The faster crops are destroyed, the more they are grown. Drug-related violence and bribery are increasing and drug consumption is spreading rapidly.

The only bright spot in a comprehensive US government report on the drug crisis is that more countries are actively engaged in fighting the problem. Eradication programmes are operating in 20 countries, up from two in 1981. The US Bureau of International Narcotics Matters, an arm of the State Department, says in its 1986 annual report that demand for drugs is up in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

It paints a bleak picture of the drug situation in Mexico, which has become an important transit post for illegal narcotics on route to the United States. Most drugs in the US arrive through Mexico.

Mrs Ann Wroblewski, Assistant Secretary of State for the bureau, said more opium poppies and marijuana crops were being eradicated in Mexico but production continued to rise. More cocaine was seized there in 1986 than before but

some of the big traffickers was brought to trial.

Mrs Wroblewski summarized the world-wide drug situation in 1986:

● Bolivia: Operation Blast Furnace, in which the US participated, disrupted the cocaine network but only temporarily depressed the price of coca leaf.

● Peru: Eradication of coca slowed down because of increased violence by drug traffickers.

● Colombia: There was unprecedented violence against politicians, judges and journalists but marijuana eradication continued.

● Pakistan: Opium production increased significantly.

● Thailand: Opium production fell due to an effective eradication campaign. Marijuana production expanded.

● Burma: The world's largest producer of illegal opium also instituted the largest eradication programme. However, output rose as the opium warlords increased planting.

As for 1987, Mrs Wroblewski said her bureau now operated in all key growing and trafficking nations and most of the secondary countries, with the exception of Iran and Afghanistan.

## Smuggler MPs helped by Mauritius police

Port Louis (Reuters) — A commission of inquiry into drugs on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius said five present and former MPs smuggled drugs with the connivance of senior police officers.

In a report on its seven-month-long investigation, the commission cleared the Deputy Prime Minister, Sir Gaetan Duval, and praised the Prime Minister, Mr Anerood Jugnauth, for endangering his parliamentary majority by pressing for the inquiry.

The 156-page report, published on Tuesday, said the guilty MPs were Sattyannund Pelladoah, Ismael Nawoor, Serge Thomas, Lutchmeeparsad Ramsabok and Sureen Poonith, all of them former members of Mr Jugnauth's ruling coalition.

It added that a sixth MP, Goinsamy Chinen, was an accomplice. It named five police officers who, it said, turned a blind eye to drug smuggling.

Ramsabok resigned his seat in Parliament in December and Poonith followed suit yesterday after witnesses told the commission that they had acted as drug couriers.

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# Sir Joh's power bid stuns Canberra establishment

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Something extraordinary is happening in Australian politics which is shaking Canberra's deeply-entrenched establishment. Just where the tilt for power by Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the maverick Premier of Queensland, will end is anybody's guess, but it is already clear that the system will never be the same again.

After weeks of rancorous debate which has bitterly divided conservative politics, Sir Joh, aged 76, and who at this stage does not even have a seat in the federal Parliament, has persuaded almost half of the National Party's MPs in Canberra to back him against Mr Ian Sinclair, the party leader, in his drive to be Prime Minister. Other MPs are quite likely to follow.

This in itself is remarkable. At the opposite end of the political spectrum, it is as if Mr Ken Livingstone, as leader of the GLC, had challenged Mr Neil Kinnock and got the support of half of Labour's MPs.

The coup attempt was signalled in a motion by the MPs to pursue a campaign with the slogan, "Joh for Prime Minister for Australia's sake".

It indicated a showdown in the power struggle which has pitted Sir Joh as a potential leader of conservative politics against Mr Sinclair and his partner in the opposition coalition, Mr John Howard, the Liberal leader.

The confrontation will be renewed later this month, with the MPs, all of them from Queensland, seeking to get their fellows on the National

Party caucus in Canberra to endorse the motion.

But it is already evident that the Nationals' split has all but destroyed the alliance with the Liberals which has made conservatism the natural voice of Australian government.

The implications are profound, but the most immediate upshot is that Labor, long the party of opposition, will now probably win an unprecedented third term of office later this year.

It was always likely that Sir Joh, a peanut farmer whose fundamentalist views and electoral success in Queensland have made him a kind of Outback political phenomenon, would attract far-right support when he announced earlier this year that he was making a move on Canberra.

What has astonished analysts is the speed with which his populist bandwagon have gathered momentum.

Sir Joh's campaign has also



Mr Howard: watching destruction of coalition unity.

had a broader impact. Since making his appearance on the national scene with a near-presidential style of campaigning, there has been a 4 per cent poll swing from the Hawke Government to the conservative parties.

There is even growing speculation about the possibility of a Bjelke-Petersen administration in Canberra.

At a time when Australians are worried and bewildered by dire warnings of unprecedented economic austerity, because of huge trade imbalances and a perilous level of foreign debt, the Queensland Premier's avuncular manner and simple solutions find a ready response.

With a feeling for gut-level issues that has been the basis of his longevity in Queensland politics, he speaks of a federal Government committed to a flat 25 per cent rate of income tax and to confronting trade union power.

When it comes to details,



Sir Joh: avuncular manner and simple solutions.

however, Sir Joh is less specific. His standard reply to awkward questions from the media is a paternalistic "Now, don't you worry about that." More often than not, he will then launch into one of the rambling, inconclusive sentences that have become his hallmark.

Asked recently for his thoughts on foreign policy, he replied: "You are not going to get me with that kind of trick question."

Despite the indications that he does have some broad national support, urban Australians still regard it as incredible that he might be elected Prime Minister.

The Nationals have only 21 seats in the 145-seat House of Representatives, and, who ever leads the party, it is inconceivable that it could win a majority in its own right. The alternative, a new coalition with the Liberals under Sir Joh, becomes ever less likely as he pours scorn on the Howard leadership.

Fellow conservatives believe that Sir Joh's electoral appeal will evaporate under the scrutiny of a federal election campaign.

Mr Howard, who has watched the destruction of any semblance of unity between Liberals and Nationals, remarked bitterly this week: "Sir Joh is not a man of vision and achievement, but a man who through his own selfish power desires, with no basis of any policy or principle, is prepared to embark on a course which will wreck conservative politics."



A boy waving a toy rifle as members of Sydney's Afghan community demonstrate against the presence of Mr Edward Shevardnadze at a dinner with the New South Wales State Premier, Mr Barrie Unsworth.

Two days of talks between Australian ministers and the Soviet Foreign Minister ended yesterday with Canberra agreeing to closer official contacts and allowing Russians to make a fishing survey in Australian waters (Stephen Taylor writes from Sydney).

Australia has received with scepticism Soviet assurances that Russia has no in-

tentions of building up a military presence in the South Pacific. Mr Shevardnadze said Moscow's interest in the Pacific was legitimate and concerned its "tranquillity and stability".

He said Russia was concerned by "the expansion of the US Navy in the region, the fact that the US Navy now has long-range, sea-launched missiles there", but its response over the next decade would depend on what the nations of the region wanted. Trade, tourism and political exchanges were all possibilities. The Soviet Minister leaves for Indonesia today.

## Indonesia ambivalent on Soviet visitor

From Our Correspondent Jakarta

Indonesia is expected to welcome Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, with mixed feelings today, Western diplomats say.

Staunchly anti-communist for the past 20 years, Indonesia is a leading member of the Non-Aligned Movement, with hopes of polishing up its Timor-stained and slightly Western-leaning credentials to gain the chairmanship of the group.

Diplomatic sources say Jakarta has hopes that the visit might give a fillip to its non-aligned hopes, and spell out more clearly Mr Gorbachev's foreign policy intentions in the region, particularly with regard to China and the non-communist Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).

The spotlight during the two-day visit will almost certainly be on the issue of Moscow's backing for Vietnam's military occupation of Cambodia.

It was the omission of Cambodia from Mr Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech last July 28, which called for strengthening Soviet-Asian ties, that prompted Mr Mochtar Kusumadiningrat, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, to say at the time that the Soviet leader did not yet understand the region.

On bilateral relations, an abrupt about-face in Indonesian-Soviet relations is not expected.

## Tamil Nadu language conflict

### Defence of English by shock tactics

From Michael Hamby, Madras

Half a dozen people have immolated themselves in defence of the English language during the past few months in the southernmost Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Another two have taken poison in the same cause.

"Perhaps 10 people have died altogether," said Mr K. Manoharan, a leader of the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.

Some 20,000 people have been sent to prison for opposing the "imposition" of the Hindi language. Ten DMK members of the state assembly have been arrested because of their campaign.

The DMK launched the campaign last November in protest at a series of "Hindi weeks" promoted by the Indian Government to hasten acceptance of Hindi as the national language.

The immediate focus of the agitation was a clause in the Constitution which describes Hindi as the country's official language. It was inserted by India's Constituent Assembly soon after independence only by the casting vote of Dr Rajendra Prasad, the chairman, and it has been a running sore ever since.

As a concession to the non-Hindi-speaking states, particularly in the south, English was kept as an alternative for 16 years - until 1965. However, a massive agitation in Tamil Nadu at that time, which ruled fears that the state might secede from the Indian Union, resulted in nothing being done to change the status of English. This ambiguity persists today.

The anti-Hindi agitation, however, seems to have more to do with Tamil Nadu's own political situation than with a real threat from the Hindi-speakers, although the threat exists.

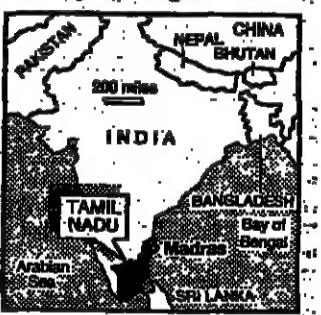
Both leading parties in the state spring from the same roots and both have similar beliefs. The ruling party, the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), is named after Mr C. Annadurai, the founder of the original Dravidian party, which has split several times.

The AIADMK was founded by a popular film star, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, known as MGR. He is now almost wholly incapacitated by a series of strokes and is practically speechless. He is still Chief Minister, however, and co-operates in the state and national legislatures with the

Congress (I) Party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister. He quite overbears the DMK, which is led by his former scriptwriter, Mr K. Karunanidhi.

There is a possibility, much feared by the DMK, that the MGR will call a mid-term election in order to ensure that, even though he may not be around for the next five years, his party will still be in power. The DMK, therefore, has kept its cadres constantly in trim and more cynical observers see the anti-Hindi campaign as an exercise in this direction.

There is no doubt of the strength of Tamil feeling on the subject, though. "Hindi is



being foisted on the country," says Mr Manoharan.

"Hindi has produced only two works of literature, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata," says the Railway Gazette. Hindi chauvinists say their language is spoken by the majority of the people, but there are many different kinds of Hindi. There is 'Majhi' Hindi, 'Kashmiri' Hindi and 'Rajasthani' Hindi.

Hindi chauvinists, say the Tamils, claim that English is a foreign tongue, the language of the oppressors like Churchill and Brigadier Dyer of Amritsar massacre fame. "But it is also the language of Shakespeare, Byron and Shelley, and of Walt Whitman and Bernard Shaw," says Mr Manoharan. "We are in the era of technology, computers, scientific development and advance, and English is the only language which can help in that."

The bulk of those arrested were held for burning copies of the clause of the Constitution which gives Hindi its status. The members of the legislature were arrested for showing the same constitutional disrespect. Although most of the demonstrators have now been released, including Mr Karunanidhi, between 1,000 and 2,000 are still being held.

## Pakistan seeks Awacs to stop Afghan raids

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

Afghan MiGs carried out an air attack on Tuesday against an Afghan refugee camp at Chitral, killing two people and injuring five others.

Mr Muhammad Khan Junjo, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, said last Friday that a round-the-clock air surveillance of his country's north-western border areas had been ordered to prevent Afghan air attacks, which last week claimed more than 100 lives in two separate raids on Afghan refugee camps at Karaman and Parachinar tribal agencies.

However, the Afghan MiGs have been intruding into Pakistani air space almost daily, and as many as a dozen planes are reported to have carried out raids which, besides causing deaths, have razed houses and shops.

Mr Zaim Noorani, Pakistan's Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, told a ruling parliamentary party meeting here "Tuesday" that Pakistani defence experts were in Washington to negotiate the purchase of AWACS by the American Awacs, or say alternative early warning system.

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## SPECTRUM

# Sister Syria's father figure

On the rain-soaked walls of west Beirut these past two weeks, soldiers of Syria's 85th army brigade have been plastering thousands of portraits of their president. Back in 1976, when the Syrians went in without telling their Soviet allies, they did the same; but in those days the pictures showed a stern, unsmiling face with dark brown hair, a leader of the Arab nation staring defiantly into the future. The new posters show a quite different President Assad. White-haired and smiling, he is now the elder statesman rather than the guardian of the Baath party's corrective revolution, a father figure gazing benignly upon his people — Lebanese as well as Syrian.

The blue and pink texts that are plastered alongside these portraits announce Assad's intention to guard the Lebanese against the gangsters of Beirut. And the message has not been lost on the Lebanese. At the American University's alumni club in west Beirut last week, academics heaped food on to plates and trays to give to the Syrian "special forces" soldiers who were standing duty in the rain outside. "Sister Syria" — for so Assad believes the Lebanese should regard his nation — had come of age. So, in one sense, has Assad himself. For the man in those street portraits is a conservative, traditional man. And he is also growing old.

At 59, Assad is now among the most powerful figures in the Arab world, grasping for the laurels of Lebanese peace and for the fulfilment of that curious and constant desire which he has so often expressed in private: the gratitude of the Christians of Lebanon. This week, President Amin Gemayel and the Christian Maronite commander of the Lebanese army, General Michel Aoun, were moving towards acceptance of the latest "pax Syria". It would be a considerable victory for the man who has been variously described as both the "great survivor" and the "consummate gambler".

## THE TIMES PROFILE

HAFEZ AL-ASSAD

Syria's president once more holds the slippery key to Lebanon's future, reports Robert Fisk

In one sense, the first description is wrong. Good luck and God's good grace have saved him from counter-coups and a persistent heart ailment. Both the Americans and the Israelis have written Assad off when the Israelis attacked Lebanon in 1982, destroying Syria's air force in one terrible, unforgettable day, or when the tanks of his brother Rifaat's private army appeared on the streets of Damascus. Assad had to drive into his own capital at the wheel of his own limousine to send the tank crews back to barracks.

Nothing, however, could have equalled his performance over the past nine weeks. At the new year, Syria's fortunes appeared to have reached their nadir. Syria was reviled internationally for the incriminating evidence that its security agents had tried to blow up an El Al airliner, it was arguing with its Iranian allies over the course of the Gulf war, and it had been humiliated in Beirut, where its 500 soldiers — relics of an earlier "security plan" — were overwhelmed by the militias. Within days, Assad was told that the threat to American hostages in Lebanon was now so grave that the Americans were about to stage a sea-borne landing in Beirut.

Publicly, the Syrian president dismissed the presence of an

enlarged US sixth fleet in the eastern Mediterranean as typical American sabre-rattling. Privately Assad was appalled. Syrian intelligence agents in Europe were reporting to Damascus that the US warnings should be taken seriously. In one European city, so it is said in Beirut, American agents actually allowed the Syrians to glance at a map of the intended landing zones.

US marines were to storm ashore at Ramlet el-Baida (beside a long, flat beach in west Beirut) while American paratroopers would be dropped in to the Bekaa Valley, a few miles from the Syrian frontier. Furthermore, so the Syrians were told, the operation would be carried out with the active participation of Israel.

Assad acted at once. He called together his most senior military and intelligence officers: General Mustafa Tlass, the defence minister, Major General Hikmat Shehadi, the Syrian army chief of staff, General Ali Douba, head of the civilian Mukhabarat intelligence service, as well as General Ali Haidar, the commander of the Syrian special forces which had bloodily suppressed the revolt in the Syrian city of Hama in 1982. Haidar's own trusted colleague, Brigadier General Ghazi Kenaan — who served as a lieutenant in the cruel Hama operation — was already in Beirut.

Tlass and Shehadi argued that Syria dare not get sucked back in to the mire of Lebanon. Israel was hoping that the Syrians would do just that, entangling themselves again in the intricate disputes and corruption of Beirut. Only a limited involvement, enough to show the Americans that they could be relied on to restore law and order, could be contemplated.

Douba, however, told Assad that Lebanon was now in total chaos and already represented a grave threat to Syria's standing. He wanted a full-scale military advance into west Beirut. A few months earlier, Assad might have followed the advice of the regular soldiers. But without hesitation, he now decided to back Douba.



He even acceded to the latter's demand to put 1,500 Syrian plain clothes intelligence agents — about half the secret service men on active duty at the time — into west Beirut. It was a momentous decision and the moment it was communicated to Washington, ships of the sixth fleet stationed off Lebanon began to withdraw.

Lebanese Muslim leaders were summoned to Damascus and persuaded to "request" Syrian intervention in the street fighting that had now broken out in the city. Then the Syrians, who had already brought armour up to the mountain town of Sofar, simply drove through the upper Chouf foothills and into west Beirut.

What may have clinched Assad's seal of approval for the ruthlessness of the Beirut operation was the humiliation inflicted upon 19 Syrian soldiers who were

captured by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) when the battles began in the city. Each Syrian had half his hair and half his moustache shaved off by the militiamen. Iran did not even condemn the act. When the Syrians subsequently killed 23 Hezbollah members in Beirut, they were taking their revenge.

Far more serious was Assad's reaction to revelations that his own security apparatus had, after all, been involved in the attempted El Al bombing, thwarted at Heathrow last year. The British believed that Mohamed el-Khouly, the head of air force intelligence, was behind the sabotage plan and, after first vehemently denying any Syrian culpability, Assad learned that a burden of guilt did after all lie upon his own advisers.

## BIOGRAPHY

- 1928: Born Qardaha, north-west Syria. Member of minority Alawi sect. Educated Syrian military academy. Married, three children. Reputedly fond of Beethoven.
- 1966-70: Member, Inter-Arab and regional command of the Baath party and Minister of Defence. Commander of Syrian air force. Refused to fly air cover for Syrian troops attacking Jordan.
- 1970: October: Led coup d'état.
- 1971: Elected president of Syrian Arab Republic. Negotiated with Henry Kissinger for partial withdrawal of Israeli army from Syrian territory following 1973 Middle East war.
- 1976: Ordered Syrian troops into Lebanon without informing Soviet allies.
- 1982: Put down Muslim extremist uprising in Syrian city of Hama at reported cost of up to 20,000 lives.

is Assad who personally writes the most important statements to come out of the official Syrian news agency. He is now devoting himself to polishing up the image of his country, and not before time.

From talk of confronting Zionist plots, Assad now condemns "international terrorism" (a definition which includes both Israelis and Arabs) and "the hoodlums of Beirut" (a description which precisely coincides with that of George Shultz, the US Secretary of State). Assad could now become the West's most important friend in the Middle East, crushing the anarchy of Lebanon, freeing the foreign hostages in Beirut, smothering the Shia Muslim revolution in the country. The 'lion of Damascus' — Assad means 'lion' in Arabic) has come into his own.

But, and there is always a 'but' in Lebanon, things are not that simple. The Phalangist militia, a Christian east Beirut is still strong enough to oppose the Syrians as well as its own president and army commander. And it is Israel which supplies and supports the Phalangists. Will the Americans put pressure on the Israelis to leave the Phalangists in Syria's mercy? What if the Hezbollah mounts a serious resistance to Syria in Lebanon, using the same tactics — shelling and the suicide truck bomber — that drove out the Israelis and the multinational force?

Indeed, what happens to Syria if Assad goes? In theory, Abdul-Halim Khaddam, the vice president, takes over. In practice, Mohamed el-Khouly, the same el-Khouly blamed by Britain for the El Al bombing attempt, is a possible contender. And there is always Rifaat Assad, editing an Arab magazine in Paris while awaiting fortune's wheel.

For all that Assad is a stable and comfortable figure, he has provided for no real succession in Syria. He is indeed a father figure, but who are his sons?

## Welcome to my fan club

The wisdom of President Reagan is to be preserved in a lavish new library — if his rich guests can be persuaded to contribute



The Reagans (right) and a model of the Presidential Library

The crisp white card is simple, but the words written on it are impressive: "The President of the United States requests the pleasure of the company of...". Thousands of the cards have been despatched since the beginning of the Reagan regime, but none has been handled more discreetly than the luncheon invitations sent to potential donors to one of the president's favourite charities: the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation.

By January 1989, when the Reagans are scheduled to leave the White House, this foundation hopes to have collected \$80 million, and to have spent it on the building of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the Ronald Reagan Centre for Public Affairs, in California. The invitations to these special lunches — which neither the foundation nor the White

House is keen to discuss — are an important key to raising these funds.

Though presidential libraries have become traditional in post-war America, Reagan's case is unusual: one, because of the enormous sum of money being sought and, more importantly, because the cash is being aggressively solicited before the end of his presidency by methods which, according to some of the potential donors approached, smack of political patronage. While using the power of political office to raise funds is common and accepted practice in Washington, for Reagan to solicit contributions in return for political favours would be illegal.

The foundation was born in early 1984, with little fanfare, when conservatively Reagan was congratulating itself that the overwhelming re-election

of Ronald Reagan had confirmed the dawn of a new, more sympathetic era. Edwin Meese, the present Attorney General, and Michael Deaver, who had recently retired as the president's chief of staff and established himself as one of Washington's most powerful lobbyists, suggested that their two-term pharaoh deserved a temple to ennobel and preserve his political legacy.

With apparent altruism, Deaver offered the foundation premises immediately adjacent to his booming lobby business. Automatically the rich and powerful arriving to seek Deaver's help would also see the neighbouring foundation's offices, raising the possibility that those seeking influence in the White House might also be expected

**'It's like being with the Queen'**

to contribute to preserving the president's thoughts for posterity. The foundation's director, Gary Jones, denies the possibility of any illegality involving the president. "As long as Ronald Reagan is president, he won't be told, who has contributed to the foundation," he insists. "Clearly, if the president knew who was contributing, he would be giving the impression that donors could gain an advantage, and they can't. The president doesn't ask who has given any money."

The recollections of the luncheon guests, however, suggest a less inviolable procedure. In batches of 30 at a time — investment bankers, publishers and car dealers are

all thrown together, with only their enormous wealth in common — they arrive an hour before the meal to watch an introductory film in the White House auditorium. Then, armed with an elaborate information-kit, describing the foundation, they are escorted upstairs to the ornate state dining room.

Inevitably, the chosen few are immediately overawed. "The service is so special and one is so close to the president," a visitor recalls. "It's like being with the Queen at Buckingham Palace."

"The president welcomed us," another remembers, "and said how glad he was of everyone's interest in the library and the need for contributions. Wouldn't you give if you had that treatment?" Some days after the lunch, in a strange reversal of etiquette, selected guests who have not made immedi-

ate pledges are even telephoned by the president or his wife and thanked for attending the lunch.

The result is that about \$10 million has already been pledged, and Jones expects the building of the library to begin "within a few months". The library and the centre will cost \$30 million each. The land for the centre will cost \$20 million, while the library site at Stanford University, also valued at \$20 million, has been donated. The design of the library is "exactly to Mrs Reagan's taste", according to Jones.

A low-level building with a red clay tile roof, it is intended to be a repository of all the presidential papers, films, videotapes and memorabilia but with all the facilities and comforts of a luxury hotel.

The library will become, in the foundation's view, as much a place of homage as of study. Sharing its 20-acre site and adding to the grand atmosphere will be two residential suites for the use of visiting "heads of state" and 20 apartments to house "distinguished guests".

Undoubtedly some of the most popular documents in the library will be those related to its funding.

Tom Bower

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## A real old ding-dong

Wrought iron clappers, to be made once again in Britain, will bring back the traditional ring to our clunking churchbells

When he opens the Blists Mill Wrought Iron works tomorrow, the Prince of Wales is unlikely to reflect on the "unacceptable noise" of the peal of bells at his wedding: like the rest of us, he probably didn't notice.

Jim Phillips, secretary of the St Paul's Cathedral Guild of Ringers, is among the few who did. He hopes that the works, part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, will restore the "song" to his 12-peal bells of St Paul's Cathedral.

Blists Mill, the world's only wrought-iron works, already has other commissions — for example, the steering gear for the restored SS Great Britain and the railings outside the House of Commons. But at the top of the joblist are clappers.

For at least 400 years bells have been made of bell metal — 77 per cent copper, 23 per cent tin — and their clappers of wrought iron. The trouble is that since the last wrought-iron works closed in 1973 the best clapper available has been made of spheroidal graphite cast steel, or SG. "The wrought-iron clapper will hit the bell and bounce and bounce again, making the bell sing," Phillips says. "A cast-steel clapper will just hit the bell and stay there, making a dead sound, and it's completely unacceptable in

ringers. It's like a damper on a piano key." The century-old wrought-iron clappers at St Paul's have deteriorated until they cannot be repaired any longer. At the 1981 royal wedding, two SG clappers had to be called into duty at the last minute. "We hoped no one would notice, but the ringers complained."

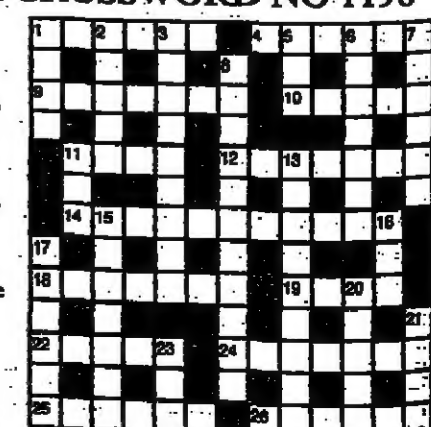
The new works will not make a great deal of money for the museum, but should provide about 15 jobs and cover costs. They were built by Manpower Services Commission workers with sponsorships from Shell, the white-collar trade union Apco, and with iron from Woolwich Dockyard and equipment from that last wrought-iron works, the Atlas Forge of Bolton.

"We're catering for a growing movement of people who want the real thing," says Stuart Smith, museum director. Phillips — whose 12-bell changes at St Paul's ring out across London every feast day and day of national celebration and twice on Sundays and every other serious campanologist in the country want the real thing: "It is the sound of the traditional English bell, which we are in danger of losing for ever."

Simon Tait

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1198

- ACROSS
- 1 In front of (6)
  - 4 Minister (6)
  - 9 Scrape (7)
  - 10 Snuggles player (5)
  - 11 On summit (4)
  - 12 News (7)
  - 14 Urban smoothie (4,7)
  - 15 Ethiopian language (7)
  - 19 Stretch (4)
  - 22 Automaton (5)
  - 24 Evergreen cone tree (7)
  - 25 Character (6)
  - 26 Truly (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Party (4)
  - 2 Foremost (5)
  - 3 Household taxpayer (9)
  - 5 Knock (3)
  - 6 Cost (7)
  - 7 Defeat totally (6)
  - 8 Badminton cone (11)
  - 11 Officer's assistant (11,1)
  - 13 Cultural degeneration (9)
  - 15 Restrain (7)
  - 16 Noisy quarrel (3)
  - 17 Benefactor (6)
  - 20 Dreadful (5)
  - 21 Squirrel nest (4)
  - 23 Sailor (3)



SOLUTION TO NO 1197

ACROSS: 1 Algorithm 5 Zinc 9 Stumber 10 Overt 11 Compo 12 Drawl 13 Get-up 15 Soda 16 Minus 18 Caddy 20 Tease 21 Gumball 23 Nobs 24 Asterisk

DOWN: 1 Absurd 2 Gourmand 3 Rib 4 Scrambled egg 6 Box 7 Cmap 8 Monogram 11 Clincher 14 Tandori 15 Softer 17 Mulk 19 Snub 22 MBE

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# HEALTH

## Wanted: a good food policy

This week the Government abolished its one source of independent advice on food and health — yet the British diet is the worst in the developed world. Geoffrey Cannon explains the confusing politics of food, and calls for reform

The *Lancet* thundered last August: "Britain needs a food and health policy. The Government must face its duty." Earlier in the year the British Medical Association, in its report "Diet, Nutrition and Health", had said there was "an urgent need" for a national policy on food and health, pointing out that "the present operation of the Common Agricultural Policy in relation to dairy products and sugar is directly opposed to the dietary objectives that the United Kingdom should be aiming for".

So what is this Government doing about food and public health? National nutrition education was one of the jobs of the Health Education Council (HEC), funded by the Department of Health (DHSS) but supposed to be reasonably independent of government. In the 1980s the HEC infuriated the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) by advising us all to eat less fat, sugar and salt.

In the summer of 1984 the DHSS set up a special Joint Advisory Committee on Nutrition Education (JACNE) to translate medical advice on food and health into everyday language. A year later, JACNE also infuriated MAFF and the food manufacturers by producing a booklet advising us all in plain language to eat less fat.

So last November Mr Fowler decided to abolish the HEC without any warning to its director-general, Dr David Player. And on Monday, Mr Fowler decided to disband JACNE, again without warning its chairman, Dr John Garrow. Both bodies will cease to function this month, to be replaced by a new health education authority, directly controlled by the Government.

The merit of JACNE was that it represented a fair range of opinion. Dr Garrow told me, "The majority of its members were not connected with government or the

food industry. We could make mistakes, but do so honestly." What of the future, now that advice will come direct from government? The giant food manufacturers, represented by the Food & Drink Federation (FDF), are determined to maintain their supply of highly-processed, cheapened products, which depend on fats, sugars, and chemical additives.

It is now demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that saturated fats and added sugars, consumed in the quantity typical in Britain, are harmful to health. But the signs are that this Government, embarrassed by the Eurolog of fats and sugars, would, if anything, like to see more of them eaten.

Take sugar. Britain has no policy on sugars and health, because any such policy depends on government acceptance of a relevant report of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA), the central DHSS expert advisory body. Last summer the DHSS agreed to commission a COMA report on sugars and health. In December the chairman of the committee was announced: Professor Harry Keen of Guy's Hospital.

Professor Keen is an authority on diabetes who believes that sugars have no special role in obesity or diabetes. He has said as much at meetings organized by the Sugar Bureau. Over the years, some of his research has been funded by the International Sugar Research Foundation, the Sugar Bureau, and most notably by the World Sugar Research Organization.

Or take fats: the main COMA committee is a body of experts who monitor the health effects of national food policy as decided by the MAFF. In the past year, four new members of COMA have been appointed. One is Professor Michael Gurr, now employed by the Milk Marketing Board; another is Professor Don Naismith, who has



been a paid adviser to the Snack, Nut and Crisp Manufacturers Association (SNACMA). He believes that crisps are an ideal snack.

Al this is no disrespect to Professors Keen, Gurr and Naismith. The question of their personal integrity does not arise. They are entitled to their views. And their appointments should be put in perspective. Eight COMA committees reported between 1974 and 1986; of the 123 seats on these committees, 71 were occupied by men (it's almost always men) with industry or government links. If membership of the food industry-funded British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) committees is counted as a link, this rises to 89 out of 123.

Or take food policy as a whole. This is monitored by the Food Advisory Committee (FAC), the central MAFF expert advisory body. In November 1986 the FAC was enlarged. The "new, improved" committee of 15 includes seven

industry employees: four from the food giants (Cadbury Schweppes, Heinz, Reckitt and Colman, and Unilever); a food technologist, a retailer (Tesco) and an advertising agent. Again, this balance is nothing new.

What this means is that the official reports on food and health in Britain are effectively instruments of government. True, scientists on these committees do not change their views to suit the government of the day, any more than scientists who are funded by food manufacturers change their views to suit the industry. But they are usually men who see no conflict between the interests of government, science and industry — or, come to that, the consumer.

The work of DHSS and MAFF advisory committees is covered by the Official Secrets Act, and members of the main COMA committee and the FAC sign the Act. Any report whose recommendations are uncomfortable to government and industry is usually rewritten, sup-

pressed or ignored. This scandal has been overlooked by Parliament: the MPs who know how national food policy is made are often themselves advisers to the food industry.

The evidence is that British national food and health policy is controlled by civil servants, working in harmony with the giant food manufacturers. Food and health in Britain will remain the worst in the developed world, until a government commits itself to the transformation of the food supply.

Two steps could be taken immediately: the all-party Parliamentary Select Committee on Agriculture should change its name and, as the Select Committee on Food, conduct a public inquiry into British food policy. And a Register of Advisers' Interests (similar to the Register of MPs' Interests) should be published annually.

Geoffrey Cannon is co-author of *The Food Scandal*. His new book, *The Politics of Food*, will be published by Century in June.

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### Children at risk



When a mother put her two-year-old child to bed one night, he seemed fit and well, but the next morning, when she went to wake him, he was obviously ill so she took him to a doctor, who immediately recognized that he was dealing with a case of bacterial meningitis: the child was taken to hospital, but died within a couple of hours. This story illustrates that it is not possible to rely on the usual signs and symptoms of meningitis: headache, unexplained vomiting, rash, dislike of light and neck stiffness. Traditionally, neck stiffness (pain and discomfort when the head is flexed forward onto the chest), is the hallmark of meningitis, but the diagnostic catch is that it is often absent in young children, and even when present difficult to elicit.

The current meningococcal meningitis epidemic was initially centred on Stroud, but this area is now fifth in the league table; Richmond in North Yorkshire leads the field, followed by Worcester, Rugby and Darlington; young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 are most at risk.

Previous criticism of the Government's measures to combat the epidemic have been based on very natural anxiety rather than science, but recently Professor Alan Percival of the University of Manchester has launched an attack on the refusal of the Committee on Safety of Medicines to sanction the use of ciprofloxacin, one of the new 4-quinolone antimicrobials which is effective against meningitis. The reluctance to allow the prescription of 4-quinolones to growing children and adolescents follows work done with beagle puppies.

Research has shown that when large doses were given to puppies they developed

inflammation in the joint cartilage; but as Professor Percival points out, there is no evidence that large doses, let alone therapeutic ones, will cause similar troubles in children. Meanwhile the epidemic is unrestrained.

### Clinic news



The queues in genito-urinary clinics are growing longer, following the Government's campaign to change the nation's sexual habits. The incidence of Hepatitis B, a form of hepatitis common in this country among homosexuals, drug addicts and hospital staff, has fallen dramatically. Doctors at the Public Health Laboratory Service report that 2,000 cases were reported in 1984 and only 1,300 last year. Similar trends have been noticed in relation to syphilis and gonorrhoea.

### No smoke...



Previous research has shown that smokers of low tar cigarettes compensate for the lower level of tar by smoking more cigarettes, or by smoking the same number more vigorously, but it has always been assumed that their cancer-producing potential would be less. A report in *Hospital Doctor* of a study carried out at the University Medical Center in Essen shows that smoking five "safe" cigarettes produced nearly twice as much mutagenic activity (cancer-giving activity) as smoking five of one of the strongest commercial brands. The authors conclude that the only true test of the effectiveness of low tar cigarettes in reducing cancer of the lung will be epidemiological studies which will take many years to complete.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

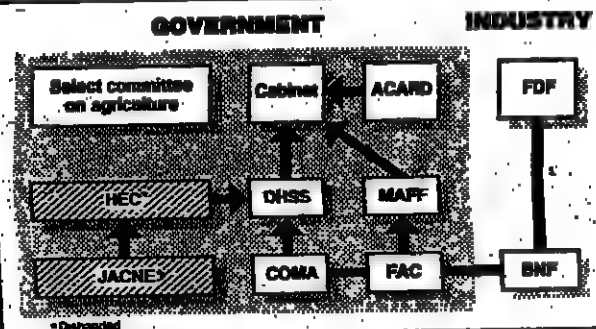
### WHO'S WHO IN THE FOOD CHAIN

● **ACARD**, Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development, Cabinet Office think-tank. Policy, more technology, more highly processed food, more power to industry in national policy.

● **BNF**, British Nutrition Foundation. Established in 1967 as national non-official authoritative source of advice about food and health. Wholly funded by food industry.

● **COMA**, Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy. Committee advising DHSS on health implications of food policy as controlled by MAFF. The main COMA committee, now of 18, includes four civil servants and 14 senior scientists, of whom eight are or have been funded by, or are advisers to, the food manufacturing industry.

● **DHSS**, Department of Health and Social Security. No responsibility for quality of food supply. In recent years has attempted to censor or obscure the NACNE report on dietary goals; the JACNE



guide to eating for a healthy heart; and the COMA-commissioned report on food eaten by 11 and 14-year-olds.

● **FAC**, Food Advisory Committee. Advises MAFF on food policy. Membership of 15 comprises seven industry employees, five food manufacturers, four scientists, three consumer representatives. FAC advice is subject to ACARD policy.

● **FDF**, Food and Drink Federation. Set up to protect interests of British food manufacturing industry. Dominated by giant firms that manufacture highly processed food, drinks or chemicals. Member companies — annual

turnover, £30 million — sponsor the BNF, and supply members of MAFF and other government advisory committees. FDF also encompasses trade associations like SNACMA.

● **HEC**, Health Education Council. Reports embarrassed Government. Disbanded this month.

● **JACNE**, Joint Advisory Committee on Nutrition Education. Disbanded.

● **MAFF**, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Government department responsible for a safe and clean food supply, but not for health.

## Fit for the future

Every Monday and Thursday evening, Len Almond takes his nine-year-old son Matthew to judo. On Tuesday night it's swimming, followed by soccer on Wednesday and again on Saturday mornings. On Sunday afternoons, the Almonds — including the three-year-old Charlotte and Hannah — go swimming *en famille*. And, adds Almond casually, he or his wife or their "mother's help" also take the twins for a 20-minute walk every day.

Besides being a devoted father, Almond is also a lecturer in physical education at Loughborough University — which may explain why his family are all sports-mad. But he is not alone in his belief that parents should encourage exercise outside school.

Earlier this week a report published by the Secondary Heads Association claimed that sport and physical education are rapidly disappearing from state secondary schools. The Almond agrees that the amount of time devoted to sport on the school curriculum is steadily declining, making outside exercise even more important. "Ten years ago, 11-year-olds had an average of two and a half hours per week for PE. Now it's barely two hours, while 16-year-olds have little more than an hour."

Even the traditional Saturday morning team games are fast going out of fashion, according to the Sports Council. "They came to a halt during the teachers' dispute and have never got back on the ground," says Mary Fitzhenry, their spokeswoman.

If sport is fading from the school curriculum, should parents encourage an exercise boom?

Both the Sports Council and Almond believe that parents could do much more to encourage out-of-school exercise for their children. In a recent survey of 100 schools throughout the country, Almond found that a staggering 63 per cent of children did "no vigorous physical activity" once they got home.

"It's a well-known fact that adults who exercise are healthier, feel better, are less likely to have heart disease or suffer from obesity," points out Dr Wheldon Housby, honorary consultant paediatrician at the Leeds General Infirmary, who recently studied a group of Sheffield children aged between five and nine to see how fit they were. "If you can get children into the habit of exercising, you're half-way there — provided that parents don't push their youngsters or allow them to exercise in unsafe conditions."

If exercise is so important, at what age should a child start? "Very young children from a year upwards can enjoy something like gymnastics, providing it's safe and run by qualified coaches," says Tony Byrne, technical officer for the National Coaching Foundation. "But you should also

make sure that the activity is right for your child; children develop at different ages and you should check that the environment is neither too challenging nor boring."

During the last few years a pre-school sports craze has swept the country, with toddlers queuing up to join organizations like Tumble-tots, which takes minors-in-arms from as young as six months for its Gymbabes class. Other organizations have been set up, such as the British Amateur Gymnastics Association (BAGA), which has just launched its pre-school gymnastics and movement learning programme; it has also produced a package costing £25, which can be bought by teachers.

Sadly, enthusiasm tends to wane once children reach the age of 10 or so. This adolescent apathy is not confined to Britain alone. A recent American survey of 19,000 six to 17-year-olds showed that 40 per cent of boys and 70 per cent of girls couldn't do more than a single pull-up.

The message to British parents, according to the National Coaching Foundation booklet *Play the Game*, is to encourage children without forcing them. Their advice includes such platitudes as not pushing "an unwilling child to participate in sport: he or she isn't playing to satisfy your ambitions." Len Almond puts it more simply: "If parents set the right example, active children will grow up into active adults."

Jane Bidder

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Free-market Mandela

In a move sure to outrage Marxist members of the African National Congress, Winnie Mandela has just penned a glowing foreword to a book produced by the head of the South African equivalent of the Adam Smith Institute. In *After Apartheid: The Solution*, Leon Louw of the Free Market Foundation, and his wife Frances Kendall, argue that free-market liberalism is the key to racial equality and suggest that blacks want constitutional reform rather than revolution. The book, a bestseller among South African whites last year, has been widely praised among moderate politicians, including the anti-ANC Zulu leader, Chief Buthelezi. In her foreword to the European publication of the book in Sweden this month, Mrs Mandela calls it "an extraordinary and long overdue challenge to South Africa". Few among the ANC national executive are likely to agree with their fellow member's claim that "there lies some of the efforts of the African National Congress" — least of all Joe Slovo, leader of the South African Communist Party.

### Home and dry

Such is the confidence of Mrs Thatcher's closest supporters that they are beginning to consider the composition of her post-election Cabinet. They are pressing for the return of Cecil Parkinson, possibly in his old job at Trade and Industry, and a massacre of extant wets. Down for the chop are Peter Walker, whose recent voluble support for the Government's economic policies are seen as recognition of his vulnerability, and Michael Jopling, the much-maligned Minister of Agriculture. Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley is now emerging as the right's candidate for the Chancellorship to replace Nigel Lawson, ear-marked for the Foreign Office. Sir Geoffrey Howe, still ambitious and popular, is being mooted for the Home Office to replace Douglas Hurd; his performance over the refugee fiasco is slated as too weak. Hurd would in turn be demoted to fill Walker's energy job. Or so the grand scheme goes.

BARRY FANTONI



"Yes, and I love Dior's tractor suit with matching accessories"

### Whipped away

I suspect that the reception held by the Conservative whips in the Lords for the Prime Minister on Tuesday evening was not quite the self-congratulatory affair one would have predicted. That very evening, even perhaps as the peers were brushing their teeth and shaving in readiness for the do, the Government suffered its first defeat of the session in the Upper House. By a majority of five their lordships voted against the Tories, thus forcing compulsory annual inspections of sports grounds as recommended in the Poppelwell Report. Could it be that Lord Denham and the other whips were so preoccupied with arrangements for the great event that arrangements in the chamber, ever so slightly, slipped.

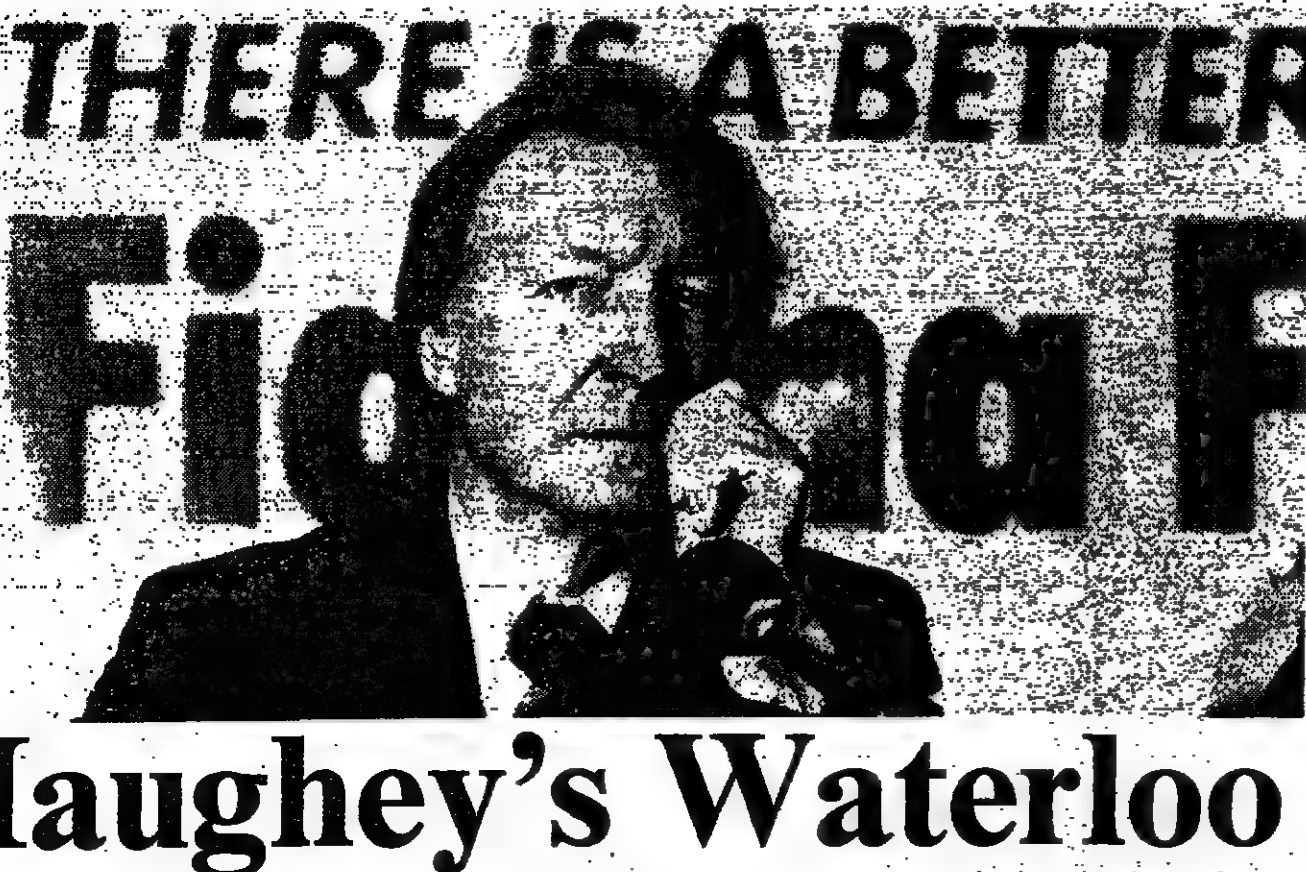
### Injured party

The latest offence that can jeopardize your career in the Conservative Party: inviting Harvey Proctor to speak. Three members of the Tory Reform Group at Manchester University were this week started to receive a letter from the university Conservative Association telling them they had been expelled for acting against the party interest by inviting the Tory member for Billericay. The association, which says Proctor's views could prove inflammatory, has now admitted it was a little hasty — especially since Proctor couldn't make the date anyway.

### Sweet sorrow

Henry Sweet, author of works that have been the bane of Oxford's English undergraduates for 93 years — *Sweet's Anglo-Saxon Reader* and *Primer* — is losing his place on the syllabus. The two volumes are finally to be replaced by a modern guide written by Bruce Mitchell and Fred Robinson. Not every Oxford tutor will mourn the passing of books renowned for supplying the barest possible information to those struggling with the ancient lays for the compulsory first-year exams. But Mitchell, who teaches at St Edmund Hall, says he is sad to see the end of books whose author supposedly provided *Shave with min blaford* (he was both my kinsman and my lord), as the Anglo-Saxon tribute to the dead king went.

PHS



## There is a better Taoiseach

### Haughey's Waterloo

It seems virtually certain that Charles Haughey, with the support of a few independents, will become Taoiseach on March 10. What is likely to happen then?

Haughey does not want to appear as the saviour of the Ulster Protestants, and is denounced by the SDLP, so he is not likely to abrogate the Anglo-Irish agreement. But he is likely to act in such a way as to jam the agreement *de facto* and make it fall into disuse and discredit. He will refuse extradition and, at the least, will pointedly refrain from endorsing the appeal by Peter Barry, Fine Gael's Foreign Minister, for support for the RUC. At the same time, he will press for the abolition of the Diplock Courts and the Ulster Defence Regiment, and will react sharply to every complaint by Catholics against the security forces.

Above all, Haughey will make it clear that the Anglo-Irish agreement, as interpreted by him, involves no abandonment of "Ireland's right to unity", and therefore no concession whatever to the Unionist position.

The British Government, supported by the press, has been trying to woo moderate Protestant opinion by suggesting that Article 1 of the agreement contains some tremendous and unprecedented concession, by the republic, to Unionist ideas and feelings. Misrepresentation on that score has gone to great lengths, even in the most reputable quarters. Thus *The Economist* claimed last December 2 that the agreement "includes a renunciation by the south of its claims to Ulster, claims which are still enshrined in the republic's constitution" (my italics).

Haughey's government will give short shrift to that alleged "renunciation", which Garret FitzGerald's government indeed could not legally have made without constitutional amendments. The Anglo-Irish agree-

**'Entangled in the Agreement, he could eventually bring Anglo-Irish relations to a worse condition than anything since the war' —**  
**Conor Cruise O'Brien on the prospects for the next Taoiseach**

ment, as interpreted by Haughey, is likely to prove unworkable, and a clear liability to the British administration in Northern Ireland. So I think the agreement is headed for a breakdown. Personally I do not regret that, though most people would.

Haughey always refers to Northern Ireland as "a non-viable entity". But in fact it is likely to get more viable through the assuaging of Unionist feelings, as an unintended and unwanted consequence of Haughey's return to power in the republic.

What of Anglo-Irish relations in general, as distinct from the specifics of the agreement? Any Dublin government, in its own interest, will want to keep relations with London reasonably sweet. That rule held good for Haughey's two previous administrations, with the brief exception of the Falklands episode. It would hold good for any future one, too, were it not for the fact that the crumbling post-Haughey Anglo-Irish agreement is likely to play the devil with the whole fabric of Anglo-Irish relations.

After March 10, Haughey will find himself plunged into sharing responsibility — through institutionalized consultative mechanisms — with Britain over Northern Ireland. Both by political philosophy and temperament Haughey is utterly unfitted to share responsibility in such a way.

His partners after all — partners by courtesy of the detested FitzGerald — will be people who have no right at all, in his philosophy, to be in the territory over which this consultative partnership has been established.

In terms of the Irish republican creed dear to Haughey and even more dear to Neil Blaney, the independent Euro-MP on whom Haughey may depend for his political survival, Haughey will find himself in partnership with the foreign forces of occupation in the Six Counties.

Cast in that most distasteful role, Haughey will have no alternative but to conduct his side of the partnership in a strictly adversarial spirit, blaming the British for anything that goes wrong in Northern Ireland, from a nationalist and Catholic point of view.

After some experience of this, the British Government is likely to start putting the blame on Haughey for making the Anglo-Irish agreement unworkable. The opposition in the Dáil will be going on about that too, and Haughey, confronting that opposition, will have no option but to pile even more blame on Britain. And so on.

I believe that Haughey, entangled in the agreement and thrashing around in it, could eventually bring Anglo-Irish relations to a worse condition than

anything experienced since the end of the Second World War.

It may not get that bad, because this government may not last long enough to do all that much damage. At present, most commentators give it no more than two years. Still, I fear that some damage could be done within that time. It might be a good idea to act on the recent suggestion of Merilyn Rees, the one-time Northern Ireland minister, and "freeze the agreement". That would lessen the friction with Haughey.

As regards the internal affairs of the republic, Haughey faces some singularly uninviting prospects. Economic conditions require a tough budget with severe spending cuts. Haughey can carry such a budget, with the support of Fine Gael and probably the Progressive Democrats. But such a budget with such support would alienate the smaller groups to the left in the Dáil and lose Fianna Fáil support in the country. FitzGerald would be seen as the honest man who told the country the painful truth and paid the price; Haughey as the man who prevaricated.

Nice stuff for the opposition in any by-election that may be going. In these conditions, I don't see this government lasting as long as two years. And I do see a Fine Gael-PD coalition as likely winners of the ensuing election. In that event, I think Fianna Fáil will at last summon up the courage to get rid of its political incubus, Charles J. Haughey.

Economically, the outlook remains grim. But as regards the political life of the republic the horizon looks distinctly brighter. Those citizens whose votes denied Haughey his overall majority did so because they feared the advent to durable power in the republic of an authoritarian personality in total control of a monolithic party.

I came back from America to vote in Dublin North-East so as to be counted among those citizens, and I am glad I did.

### Correlli Barnett shows that industrial Technik was ever our weakness

The current inquests into the state of British research and development, especially "technology transfer" from original invention into series production of new devices, draw attention to an apparent paradox. How could Britain, which invented radar, developed all-weather target-finding equipment for Bomber Command, and built the first computer in order to crack the German Enigma ciphers, fail to create and exploit, like Japan, a world consumer electronics market, or, like America, a world electronic business-systems market, and instead clock up a deficit last year of £2 billion in information technology?

The truth is that the widespread belief in Britain's high-technology leadership during the Second World War is a fallacy, and especially in the field of electronics. Documents filed at the time by the Cabinet and war production ministries make clear that the characteristic British weaknesses in R and D today, especially in "technology transfer", were thoroughly present in wartime. There was a gulf then, as now, between the relatively few world-class scientists in the universities and government research establishments, and the quality of the technological and industrial base.

There is no question that between 1935 and 1943 British original research in radar and other electronic devices was brilliant. At the Bowdley Research Establishment in Suffolk, fewer than a dozen scientists from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research led by Sir Robert Watson Watt evolved the design for the Chain Home stations that enabled Fighter Command to win the Battle of Britain. Watson's team, like other teams in the Admiralty and War Office research centres, were intimately linked with university science to contribute towards the development of the first operational radars and the later short-wave 10 and 3cm radars that proved the key to detecting and sinking U-boats in the Atlantic.

Yet when the Telecommunications Research Establishment (TRE) was set up at Malvern as the power source and control centre for wartime electronic research and development, Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory had to be robbed of much of its staff to man it; a demonstration that the nation's pool of top scientists was too small.

By October 1943 the shortage of competent researchers in the field of radar meant that much radar research had to be taken over by America. Thus Britain's leadership in original radar discovery was already waning because its



## How Britain fumbled in its finest hour

resources even in pure science were too narrow.

But the wartime problem with electronics lay in development and production. The Mark III Identification Friend or Foe radar originated as an idea in 1939. It was almost ready for series production by the end of 1941, but a year later was still incomplete due to delays in production of vital components. In 1942 large-scale production of the H2S target-finding device for Bomber Command was similarly delayed, as was the improved version in 1943-44, forcing Bomber Command to rely on a supply of hand-built equipment.

The Mark VIII Airborne Interception radar for night fighters was bottlenecked in 1942 for want of magnets and magnetrons. And as late as April 1944 Watson Watt was submitting a blistering memorandum to the Ministry of Production about late delivery of various types of radars for all three services, and listing the grievous operational consequences. It was, he added, the same thing with lightweight portable radios for the Army and VHF radio-telephone kit for Bomber Command.

The reason for these delays in technology transfer was the inadequacy of the human and technological resources of the British electronics and precision engineering industries. Before the war the British radio industry had been a world backwater compared with the German or American, mostly assembling simple radios, often from imported components. Its technical and production staff were of the traditional British pattern: self-taught practical men who had begun on the shop-floor. The industry's development and model-shop personnel who had to carry TRE's designs through the prototype stage into series output were far from being university or technical college-trained, as they were in Germany or America. Production management likewise lacked business studies qualifications.

The scarcity of skills in the electronics industry was sharpened by the mobilization of so much available talent into government research establishments. Professor Sir Henry Tizard reported in May 1942 that there were 2,500 radio engineers in government employ, against 864

in the industry itself. In February 1943 there were 541 research workers in government centres, against 236 in the entire radio industry, while on basic research the staff at TRE numbered 34, against 15 in all the radio firms. By comparison, in 1944 there were 4,000 personnel in the radiation laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology alone.

As a result of these shortcomings Britain depended on huge imports of American valves and components for every aspect of wartime electronic production: magnetrons, capacitors, miniaturized valves for lightweight radios, specialized machine-tools.

Thus Britain emerged from the war ill-equipped to conquer world electronics markets. The continuation since 1945 of the wartime pattern of concentrating scarce talent and resources into defence establishments and defence purposes has acted as a further handicap.

Yet the wartime skills shortages only reflect, like those today, the deeper deficiencies of the British education and training system. The brilliant university scientists had too little understanding of the production problem involved in their designs; for example, Watson Watt's original team at Bowdley included not one engineer. But in any case British education had long emphasized the up-market academic activities of pure science, to the neglect of what the Germans call *Technik*; it was in *Technik* that Britain proved inferior to Germany and the US during the last war — in electronics as in other fields.

In 1937 Germany turned out more than 1,900 graduate engineers for a population then half as large again as Britain's, against our 700; to say nothing of the 2,000 highly trained engineers produced by Germany's engineering schools. In the new key category of electrical engineer the German output in 1937 of 448 graduates amounted to more than half the cumulative British total for the 14 years from 1925 to 1939. Further down the educational ladder, Germany in 1937 was giving full-time technical and career training to one in 2,600 of its population, compared with Britain's one in 4,500 in mostly inferior and less well-equipped institutions.

No wonder we find ourselves in 1987 buying Avacs, IBM mainframes, Korean table-top computers (under a British brand-name) and Sony hi-fi's and videos. Those whom the Gods wish to destroy, first they make stung.

The author's book *The Audit of War* has just been published by Papermac (£7.95).

Ronald Butt

## A superfluity of Tories

Mr John Smith, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, is generally accounted an able and moderate politician. Some see him as Neil Kinnock's natural successor if defeat forces the Labour Party to choose a less left-wing leader. He presents his case in a style of reasoned fluency and is seldom nonplussed.

But I have never seen a politician more nonplussed than he was on television after the Alliance had captured Greenwich from Labour with a majority of 6,611. The words still came tumbling out. He brushed aside any idea that the result was a disaster for Labour and dismissed the voters of Greenwich who had sent Rosie Barnes to Parliament with the declaration that they were only Tories. "What, all of them?" asked Sir Robin Day. Mr Smith floundered on, impaled on his point until the questioning changed. A leading Labour moderate had told us that, despite a more than 4 per cent drop in Labour's share in the poll, the 64 per cent who voted SDP and Conservative are mere Tories, and that Ms Deirdre Wood's 34 per cent represents the true Labour vote.

Now of course he was just thinking of something to say because he was in an awful spot and couldn't come out with the truth; as the Labour backbenchers Frank Field and Austin Mitchell did the next day. Mr Field said that what Ms Wood stood for "was unacceptable to a large proportion of traditional Labour voters". Mr Mitchell pointed out that unsuitable candidates resulted in disasters, and that the party ought to think about some central interference in, or even control of, local selection.

Yet moderate John Smith, like Neil Kinnock and all the Shadow Cabinet moderates, can only preserve the fragile unity of the party by recognizing and defending not only Ms Wood but also the other hard-left candidates whom Labour will offer at the election, of whom there are at least another 10 in London alone. What else can they do? Virtually all the candidates are now selected, and if Labour were to secure a parliamentary majority, the left as a whole would firmly outnumber the moderates on the backbenches. Labour spokesmen must make the best of what they cannot change.

Yet John Smith's dismissal of the Greenwich SDP voters as Tories reveals an aspect of the truth. "Tory" is not an entirely inappropriate description of that majority of the electorate, comprising Conservative and Alliance voters, which rejects the socialist order that Labour now wishes to introduce. For it is also a majority that would work, with different emphases, within the social market economy which Mrs Thatcher's government has revived. Of course, the Alliance politicians would be more collectivist than the Tories, and many Alliance voters strongly disagree with Mrs Thatcher on particular policies. But both Alliance voters

and politicians reject systematic socialism, as do many who will still vote Labour out of atavistic loyalty, for the time being.

There is in all this a lesson for Dr Owen and Mr Steel. Their formal position, reiterated in their *Panorama* interview on Monday, is that they are a third force in British politics. Their message was that they could work with Labour, minus its defence policy (and presumably minus a few other things, such as state ownership) or with the Tories if they changed their ways about unemployment. But in reality the Alliance is not a third force but a potential reformed second force in British politics. It represents what most Labour voters want, even though for the time being they may still be habit-bound to their old allegiance. The SDP in particular offers the prospect of replacing Labour with a party on the left capable of working within a social market system as an alternative to the Tories.

However, the position of the Alliance as part of the national anti-socialist consensus leads to a paradox. If there were a hung parliament, it is almost certain that, as an anti-socialist pro-Nase grouping, the Alliance could cooperate only with the Tories. Yet if it has a long-term destiny it is to replace Labour within a new national consensus.

Some Tories are frightened lest Tory tactical voting at Greenwich will be matched in a general election by Labour tactical voting for the Alliance, where it runs the Tories a close second. But precisely because the Conservatives and the Alliance together represent as strong an anti-socialist national mood, this is unlikely to happen. In most such circumstances the Alliance has already so successfully squeezed the social democratic element out of the Labour vote that it is doubtful whether there is much more to come, until Labour is seen as a spent force.

Labour, meanwhile, is in a terrible plight when one of its moderates has to toy with undemocratic centralist selection of candidates because the constituency organizations are in the hands of people who until the 1970s would have been kicked out of the party. Mr Kinnock's leadership tells us what is wrong. He was stung because the dominant left would allow only one of their own to be leader, and he was the one leftist just acceptable to the moderates. He has attacked the Militants, using them as a scapegoat, but other no-less dangerous leftist groups and people go unrebuked. He criticizes their "zealotry", by which he means the embarrassing frankness with which they pursue their cause, but never the cause itself. He has few enemies to his left. The issue at the election will not simply be the policies the Shadow Cabinet puts on paper, but identifying the many candidates who could put backbench pressure on a Kinnock government. If voters then follow the example of Greenwich, that must be good for the nation.

### Frank Johnson in the Commons

## Plot to cut taxi queues exposed

An all-party committee of MPs has secretly plotted to ban from the Members' Entrance taxi queue all secretaries, bar staff, journalists and other Third World citizens who work at Westminster, it was revealed yesterday.

The committee plans that in future only MPs, peers, officials, and the spouses of MPs and peers shall be allowed to stand in the queue.

Other people would be forced to look for them among the traffic whirling around Parliament Square — with a massive potential loss of life.

The change would also mean the biggest crisis ever between MPs and the opinion formers who are their main link with the public: the bar staff.

The scandal was revealed by Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Labour). He broke the story with the words: "On a point of order, Mr Speaker. A sub-committee of the Select Committee on House of Commons Services has issued the minutes of their proceedings of Tuesday, February 17th and in it there is an item relating to taxis at the Members' Entrance."

"It makes the point that the privilege of queuing for taxis at the Members' Entrance should be restricted to members, peers, officials of the House and spouses of members and peers accompanied by the member or peer."

This last provision — the insistence that spouses of members or peers should be accompanied by the member or peer to whom they belonged — was presumably put in to discourage spouses of members or peers from visiting members or peers to whom they were not necessarily exposed.

So, quite apart from anything else, the sub-committee of the Select Committee on House of Commons stood revealed as a somewhat kooky body.

Mr Heffer continued: "This ends a practice which has existed during all my years in the House." On the face of it, the practice to which Mr Heffer might have been referring was spouse-swapping among members or peers.

allows anyone who works at the Palace of Westminster to queue for taxis". Mr Heffer singled out "House of Commons staff and journalists" as among those now threatened.

Mr Heffer went on: "May I ask when we are going to have the opportunity to discuss that pompous asses' decision? For that's what it is."

The Speaker: "Order. I don't think the Honourable member should call Honourable members of the committee pompous asses."

"If I am not allowed to call them pompous asses, I won't," Mr Heffer replied, skillfully avoiding having to withdraw the offending remark.

What had been exposed was an attempt by MPs and peers to corner all the taxis entering New Palace Yard for themselves or their spouses.

Revelation of the affair — Cabgate, as it was being called at Westminster — was another big scoop for Mr Heffer, the veteran MP who over the years has uncovered, to his own satisfaction, such scandals as the ransacking of Liverpool, the Vietnam war, and the capitalist system.

By last night, MPs of the Select Committee on House of Commons Services were making frantic efforts to avoid appearing pompous or to avoid making enemies of influential journalists and barmen.

It was hinted that the Taxi scam was the idea of the notorious Sub-committee on Accommodation.

It was noted that Mr Andrew Faulds (Warrley East, Labour), the professional actor who is on the services committee, did not deny it when Mr Heffer referred to pompous asses.

The exchanges in the chamber had ended with the Speaker telling Mr Heffer that he must raise the matter with Mr Biffen, the Leader of the House. So the issue was now: how much did Mr Biffen know?

All observers agree that the affair is only just beginning. But for the time being the Westminster bar staff were pouring as usual, especially journalists into taxis.





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## NO PANIC, BUT EMPTINESS

Mr Neil Kinnock appeared in fighting mood yesterday. His address to fellow Labour MPs was not to be a post mortem on the death of Labour's hopes at Greenwich. He praised the dignity of Mrs Deirdre Wood. He accused his critics of preferring to argue among themselves than to attack the Tories.

The Labour leader won praise amongst his peers for standing on no nonsense. The Labour party, however, is no less in peril for that. As was once said of Lord Kitchener, standing on no nonsense can be convenient shorthand for listening to no sense. To what and to whom is Mr Kinnock listening?

Two weeks ago he was asked by the *New Statesman* whether he was worried or embarrassed by some of the candidates who would be representing Labour at the next election. No, he said, but "I sometimes get a little impatient...my irritation comes from the fact that people don't recognise the terrain on which they're fighting and come to the conclusion that to make that recognition is to stain themselves with all of the terrible poison of realism".

Like many utterances by Mr Kinnock this was somewhat Delphic. (When one preaches to as feeble an audience as the Labour party, a certain ambiguity is as essential today as it was for the prophets of Greece.) But Mrs Wood got the message. She recognised the terrain. She tried her hardest to stain herself with realism in order to hang on to a seat which Labour had held for over half a century. But she failed. She was not believed.

How does Mr Kinnock ac-

count for this? Alliance smears, Tory smears, tactical voting? On the public level those are his options. All the better then to try to forget past failures and to urge his troops forward, as he did so spiritedly yesterday.

But what does he think in private when the responsibilities of leadership are lifted a little and he can listen to his friends? Among such friends he ought to count the *New Statesman*. If he reads the issue which is published today he will find another description of the Greenwich defeat, a description of the intellectual emptiness of the party which he leads. "The fundamental problem is that Labour has lacked a clear reason for being in business", concludes its main editorial: i.e. when Mrs Wood's sympathy for Sinn Féin and hostility to NATO is stripped away there is nothing coherent left.

The rest of the magazine reports upon the beginning of an attempt to fill the vacuum. It wants to meet "the classic socialist aims of greater equality, higher welfare provision and the erosion of class difference." To do so, its various contributors are prepared to accept markets not just as a necessary evil but as an essential part of socialist theory.

They are also prepared to ditch the trade unions on the grounds that they were only ever necessary to control the power of capital in the interests of the workers: "since market socialism has other means of controlling the power of capital it leaves little for unions to do. Little is to be gained by pretending to the contrary."

One article describes how the optimism of the 1880s became either the reformist socialism of Europe or the authoritarian Bolshevism of Russia. Mrs Thatcher is out to bury both: "conditions which we did not choose and could not avoid have made it all too easy to present the future of socialism as ramshackle welfare collectivism or as a pile of skulls".

It laments — rightly — how Labour's inability to grapple with these "conditions" allowed the Conservatives to seize every initiative. Unions were held to blame for industrial decline when "short-sighted, inefficient and incompetent managers escaped virtually scot-free".

Labour wants to regain the intellectual initiative. More than that, it wants to regain power. Can the second come before the first? It is beginning to look unlikely. The *New Statesman* essays, written largely by those who are considered close influences on Mr Kinnock, provide an ambitious thesis but, by the editor's own admission, an unfinished one.

Then there is the problem of communicating the message. Red roses are fine when the product is right. They could, not hide the emptiness on offer at Greenwich.

Mrs Wood's political roots in the Labour Party were those of Mr Tony Benn, once affectionately dubbed the Bertie Wooster of Marxism. The Left now leads a miracle worker of truly Jeevesian capabilities if it is not defeated for the third successive time. Mr Kinnock has not shown himself to be such a man.

## PILLS AND NEEDLES

It is hard to fault the fiscal good intentions which have led Mr Tony Newton, the Health Minister, to fund the cost of giving free disposable syringes to diabetics within the National Health Service budget by a rise in prescription charges. It is much harder, however, to find any logic in this, or indeed in the charging system as a whole. For the conflicting priorities of revenue-raising, rationing through price, policies for welfare and policies for public health have interacted randomly over the years.

The syringe case is typical. For public health reasons, the Government has reluctantly decided to supply drug addicts with free disposable needles to help deter the spread of AIDS. This undermined the case on cost grounds for restricting diabetics, who require daily insulin injections, to reusable needles which are less safe.

It is unclear, however, why people suffering from varicose veins or asthma should pay more in order to fund an improved service to diabetics but not pay more for the fight against AIDS. Yet that is the implication of the way in which the 9 per cent increase in basic prescription charges was announced. The higher charges will raise £10 million per year, the extra cost of disposable syringes.

Changes in prescription charges are conventionally announced around Budget-time, thus emphasizing their revenue-raising function. But from the earliest days, the charges were intended to have part of the function of a price, levied so as to remind the public that it was using scarce resources.

Charges have not succeeded in either of these aims, chiefly because they appear to conflict with the welfare principle of the NHS: that individuals should not lack generally available medical care — or be limited to inferior treatment — for lack of funds. As a result, so many exemptions and special arrangements have built up that less than one in five NHS prescriptions are now charged to patients. Of the exempt prescriptions, about half go to pensioners, a sixth to children under 16 and a seventh to those on low incomes.

In general, the heaviest users of the service apart from the chronically sick are exempt, so the effect of there being a price on the drugs is negligible. The few who do pay have seen the nominal charge multiply twelvefold since 1979, so that in an estimated fifth of cases, patients are paying more than the cost of the treatments prescribed. But the revenue base is so small that charges still contribute only about 3

per cent of NHS spending.

In the general tax system, the present Chancellor has tried to cut through the cycle of ever rising tax rates paid by ever fewer people. Arithmetically, prescription charges could raise just as much by reducing the nominal amount to 50p and eliminating the exemptions. Given the relatively trivial sums raised, ministers may understandably feel that such a move would not be worth the outcry it would bring. They may take that view despite the fact that the introduction of prescription "season tickets" has greatly reduced any potential hardship and any change could be allowed for in pensions or welfare payments.

That is a pity. Nominal charges for all prescriptions and for visits to the doctor would have a social as well as an economic function. Patients would, however illogically, feel they were paying for a service rather than receiving a handout. That feeling is more prevalent, especially among the elderly, than is generally assumed by policymakers. Universal nominal charges would not price anyone out of health but it would cause the elderly, among others, to make more critical demands on the NHS to tend their ill.

## CAMERAS IN COMMITTEE

The radio broadcasting of parliament has not yet been best used to increase the information available to the public. On certain occasions, such as the Budget, the public can hear a sustained relay of the Commons' business. The same has been true when great questions are in the forefront of the nation's concern: the Falklands conflict springs to mind. But otherwise, public awareness of the House of Commons, so far as news programmes are concerned, is largely determined by snippets of altercation and uproar. It is a common view among MPs that the impression given neither elevates the public's opinion of parliament, nor conveys much information.

There is now an opportunity for something better. The Sound Broadcasting Committee of the Commons intends to seek the authority of the House to allow it to inquire into the possibility of televising the Select Committees. This could not possibly arouse the fear of misrepresentation and sensationalising and editorialising which was at the root of the Commons' last rejection of television in November 1985.

Select Committees, such as the Public Accounts Committee and those which shadow government departments, invite ministers, officials and informed outsiders to answer questions. They exist not so much to score points as to elicit information. Within limits, they operate without party strife. Much information flows from them which members of the public, like politicians, need in order to make informed judgments.

The manner of the proceedings in Select Committees lends itself to the camera. MPs may fear that a roving camera in the Chamber itself could catch them out (snoozing, for example) and would show them at their worst. In fact, the use of the cameras could be controlled. But this would not even be a risk in televising Select Committees where questioning and cross-examination of witnesses is systematic and reasoned.

Those in the camera's eye would be well aware of it, and noise and baying would be absent. Occasional cameras in committees would also raise none of the problems of cost or lighting levels which represent a problem for the Chamber.

It is significant that the new initiative is being supported by the chairman of the Sound Broadcasting Committee, Sir Philip Goodhart, who himself voted against cameras on the floor of the House lest they should prompt some Members to play to them. It is to be hoped that House will allow the matter to be looked into, and will eventually accept an experiment.

Parliament has always been torn between an urge to appeal to the public and an instinct to keep its proceedings to itself in the eighteenth century it continued to forbid the reporting of its debates long after the danger of outside pressure (its original reason) had passed.

Today, every word goes into Hansard and every sound could go on radio or television. The House of Lords provides two years experience of television cameras, which have done it no harm, and have often aroused interest in its proceedings. It is time for the Commons to take another step in its relations with the public. The resistance to televising Select Committees will not be because of real objections but because it is feared as the thin end of a wedge. What if it is?

## A soldier's farewell to arms

From Viscount Morpeth  
Sir, I have had the privilege to command an armoured reconnaissance squadron in the British Army of the Rhine for the past two years. I have resigned my commission to protest about the present Government's defence policy, which is having damaging consequences on the training, equipment, manning and conditions of service of the Regular Army. The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force are in a similar position.

"Salami slicing" cuts are making it increasingly difficult for commanders at all levels to train their formations and units to the highest standard required to maintain a credible defence. The Ministry of Defence are unable to order sufficient quantities of spare parts for our armoured fighting vehicles owing to misguided and counter-productive economies.

Formation and regimental commanders have to cut their training programmes. The authorised allocation of "track mileage" is reached. "Exercise ends". Vehicles breaking down often cannot be repaired owing to lack of spare parts. Crews are not able to perform their primary role. The Royal Armoured Corps has to face the additional problem of severe cuts in the allocation of ammunition for annual firing practice. The efficiency of the finest and most effective volunteer fighting force in NATO is degraded.

Longer term cuts imposed on and by the Ministry of Defence will have far-reaching and damaging consequences unless present policy is changed. Mid-life improvements on our reconnaissance vehicle fleet are currently shelved. Equipment, which entered service in the 1960s, will still have to operate at the turn of the century.

The situation will occur when central Europe is likely to be destabilized and when potential

aggressors are improving the quantity and quality of their conventional forces.

If this is a dispiriting state of affairs, the situation for the serviceman and service woman is aggravated by low pay and deteriorating conditions of service. The Government boast, in their statement on the Defence Estimates, 1986, that they have accepted in full every recommendation of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body since 1980. This may be the case, but the recommendations of this impartial and painstaking independent body are rarely put into effect. Staggered pay rises are best described as a cheap "con trick". Cuts in overseas allowances are demoralising and bear heavily on the junior NCO and his family, who are least able to bear them; and finally the necessary package to improve conditions of service was rejected in an arrogant manner.

The Government show no sign of reversing the current policy. Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fisher wrote to your predecessor after the First World War. He ended his letter with the words, "Sack the lot". No doubt the electorate will be permitted to deliver its judgement within the next 15 months. I hope that it will bear these points in mind.

The truth is that we are neglecting our conventional defence in spite of ministerial comments to the contrary.

Sir, I ask you to use your influence to ensure that the Armed Forces' equipment and conditions of service deteriorate no further. I beg to remain your obedient servant.

MORPETH,  
The Gate House,  
Naworth,  
Brampton, Cumbria.  
March 1.

## Politics and police

From Mr R. H. Hunt  
Sir, Mr Holland (February 21) describes an incident which, he says, "gives the lie to the notion bandied about in the House of Commons that the police are not to be competent in their investigations". In my view it does nothing of the kind.

A letter had apparently been written to the Chairman of the BBC alleging an infringement of the Representation of the People Act in a programme of which Mr Holland was the editor. A copy of this was passed to the DPP — we are not told by whom. Mr Holland was then visited by the police and interviewed at length and a statement was taken. No more was heard by Mr Holland.

Mr Holland says the allegation was "poppycock" — an opinion which he regarded as entirely disinterested. But on the strength of this opinion Mr Holland seems to be requiring us to assume that the DPP must have taken the same view, and was therefore guilty of wasting public money and police time in making further enquiries, which, on this assumption, he must have known were pointless.

Personally, I should prefer to rely on the judgement of the DPP, who is a responsible officer of great experience and with no axe to grind, on the question whether there was a case worthy of further investigation, than on that of the

person whose conduct was being called in question. The fact that nothing more has been heard merely seems to show that the DPP has carried out his duty with the responsibility and impartiality which we should expect.

The fact is that Mr Holland seems, like many other people, to be confusing two things, viz: the passing of information to the DPP or the police with a view to enabling them to consider whether there is a case to be investigated, and giving them instructions on what to do in order to carry out their investigation.

The former would seem to be the duty of every responsible citizen who believes that a crime may have been committed. The latter would be quite unacceptable. It is the latter which has been alleged against the Government in the Zircan case, without (so far as I can see) any evidence to support it, and which has been consistently denied.

Recent events have given some of us the impression that there are those in the broadcasting fraternity who think that it is somehow improper that the rest of us should presume to question their actions or their judgement; and Mr Holland's letter does nothing to weaken that impression.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD HUNT,  
2 Woodland Close,  
Ingeston, Essex.  
February 22.

## R & D shortfall

From Professor E. H. Andrews  
Sir, Your leader (February 21) lays the blame for Britain's low investment in civil R & D squarely upon the private sector. My experience as a consultant to industry in Europe and the USA, and of 10 years' stint as a non-executive director of a British manufacturing public company tends to support this thesis.

Your leader appears on p13, on p19 I read the headline, "Pressure on ICI to match City hopes for final quarter profits". Perhaps this says it all. For whatever reason, British industrial companies tend to emphasise short-term results at the expense of long-term goals; hence the relative neglect of research investment. The appointment of new Government committees, reshuffling the research councils and similar measures are unlikely to have the slightest effect upon this phenomenon. To correct the underlying attitudes responsible could take generations, and Britain just does not have the time. There is an alternative, however.

The short-term ambitions of industry could actually be har-

nessed to promote R & D by the simple device of allowing such expenditure to be tax-deductible at a rate exceeding 100 per cent. As an example, if industry-funded research at British universities were deductible for corporation tax purposes at, say, 200 per cent, the chronic financial problems of the universities would be eased and a powerful incentive to invest in research would be placed before company boards. Indeed, relief at 300 per cent would reduce the cost of such research to almost zero and is not out of the question within certain limits.

A lower relief rate (say, 150 per cent) could apply to in-house research costs. The cost to the Treasury would have to be calculated, of course, but such measures would, I believe, be highly cost-effective in view of the pressing national need and would have an immediate effect. There would also be a minimum of bureaucratic intervention.

Yours faithfully,  
EDGAR ANDREWS,  
University of London,  
Queen Mary College,  
Materials Department,  
Mile End Road, E1.  
February 21.

## Succouring children

From Mother Frances Dominica  
Sir, I welcome the letter from the Reverend Philip and Mrs Jane Davies (February 25). Our experience at Helen House hospice for children over the last 4½ years has shown us that they are right in asserting that children dying of cancer often can and should be cared for at home, we support their suggestion that energy and resources should be channelled into providing more support at home for such children and their families.

However, there is a comparatively small group of families who have children with slowly progressive life-threatening diseases, many of them genetic in origin, often affecting more than one child in the family, for whom occasional respite care, as well as support at home, is a necessity rather than a luxury. One mother had not had an unbroken night's sleep in 12 years when she first came here. We provide an artificial extended family and friends

in a society which has almost lost the extended family and which has an increasing tendency to isolate suffering and leave the victims to the care of "experts".

We must not lose sight of the fact that the number of such families in this country is mercifully very small indeed. At a recent conference held under the auspices of Help the Hospices the Duchess of Kent said she was convinced that four children's hospices would meet the needs of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and that these needed to be strategically placed.

We should see hospice as a philosophy, not a facility. It does not always need a purpose-built unit. It is a way of being alongside those whose life-span will be short, giving the help and support most appropriate for them and for their families in the place where they most want to be.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCES DOMINICA,  
Director,  
Helen House,  
37 Leopold Street, Oxford.

## Inequities of the rating system

From Mr G. Woodcock  
Sir, The sooner the proposed "community charge" system, ignoring the size of houses and taking into account the number of people actually using and enjoying the services, becomes law, the fairer and more equitable will our local authority finance become. What other services are paid for on the same ad hoc basis as our present rating system?

Suppose, for instance, that all the occupants of three identical adjoining houses — one occupied by a widow whose children have married and left home, one by a couple whose children have also married and left home and one by a couple living with three teenage children and one grandparent — decide to have a day out together and go to the local railway station to buy the tickets.

You can imagine their consternation if the booking clerk said, "the cost of your return ticket will be assessed upon the house in which you live and not upon the number of seats that you occupy in the train" — the widow, occupying one seat, paying the same as the couple occupying two seats and as the whole family occupying six seats.

Do you wonder, Sir, that the present rating system is considered both inequitable and unfair? Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM WOODCOCK,  
Heathfield,  
Haslingden,  
Rossendale, Lancashire.  
March 1.

## Theories of SDI

From Don Andrew Moore  
Sir, David Hart writes (February 19) that "SDI is a benign as well as revolutionary concept". Revolutionary it may be, but benign it is not. From the outset SDI was a dangerous Utopianism and any virtue it may conceivably have promised has become increasingly compromised as developments have proceeded.

In announcing SDI in March, 1983, President Reagan clearly envisaged a move from offensive to defensive non-nuclear deterrence and to this end he called upon the scientists "to give us means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete".

However, it has become clear that the so-called shift from offensive to defensive deterrence is but a masquerade. The simplistic SDI-1 theory (that of March, 1983) has been quietly replaced by a more complex and dangerous SDI-2 theory which serves to reinforce the offensive-based MAD (mutually assured destruction) strategy.

Existing nuclear deterrence can at best enjoy only provisional moral tolerance whilst other means are sought for the achievement of lasting and realistic disarmament. SDI fails to fit in with this and, as it has developed, seems less and less to enjoy any moral credibility.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW MOORE,  
Downside Abbey,  
Stratton on the Fosse,  
Bath, Avon.  
February 23.

## "Tunnel vision"

From Professor Michael Chisholm  
Sir, One of Eurotunnel's deeper boardroom problems has so far been largely ignored.

The Government take the view that the tunnel must be a privately financed venture. In the Bill which is now before the Lords, care was taken to block one possible avenue for public money to be invested, namely, by British Rail. Therein lies a fundamental problem for the tunnel.

For all the rhetoric, the only firm plans for through rail services that have been made public (at least, so far as I am aware) refer to services between London, Paris and Brussels. Until and unless an extensive network of through services to destinations in Britain and throughout Europe is available, the tunnel will be little more than a trans-Channel shuttle and will be unable to realise its full competitive advantage.

The requisite investment by British Rail, a State-owned concern, to achieve the full advantages of through services depends on authorisation by Government, which in terms of public expenditure now appears unlikely to be forthcoming. Could it be that the boardroom problems in Eurotunnel reflect this basic fact?

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL CHISHOLM,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Geography,  
Downing Place, Cambridge.  
February 12.

## Minority status

From Mr D. E. Thomas, MP for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Plaid Cymru)

Sir, Woodrow Wyatt (feature, February 25) recommends that we do not rely on Russian good intentions until she has vacated the Baltic states. If the Russians took the same line then they would not trust Mrs Thatcher until independence had been restored to Wales and Scotland or Mr Reagan until the conquest of California by the United States is rectified by its restoration to Mexico.

If Lord Wyatt were taken seriously then he will bury us all in his one-sided concern for national minorities.

Yours etc,  
DAFYDD ELIS THOMAS,  
House of Commons.  
February 25.

## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 5 1915

Sir James Edmonds, an official war historian, wrote of the five-week-long First Battle of Ypres that the British Expeditionary Force held its own by "sheer good shooting and superior training". Sir John French was created first Earl of Ypres on his retirement in 1922. The writer of the article was Will Irwin, of the New York Tribune.

## THE BATTLE OF YPRES.

### THE GREAT ASSAULT.

"... Ten days followed in which nothing happened and everything happened. The Germans rocked their attack from side to side, searching for the weak spot. They gained here; they lost there; but the line remained as it had been when Haig moved up his First Corps."

Then came the 31st — the crucial day for England. The attacks had been growing stronger; across the lines the British heard the Germans singing as though working themselves up, German fashion, to a Berserk courage; captured orders showed that the Kaiser had commanded a great assault which should clear the way to Calais and to Paris.

Before the sun was high on that morning of the 31st, a British aviator vol-planned down to his own line with a wing damaged by shrapnel. He dropped from his seat pale and shaken. "A close call!" he asked. "It isn't that!" he said. "It's what I've seen — three corps, I tell you — against our First!" So he jerked out his story. He had seen the roads and ridges like anthills and antons with men; he had seen new batteries going into position; he had seen the crawling grey serpents which were still more German regiments going to their slaughter. "And we're so thin from up there," he said, "and they're so many!" Hard on this came hurried news to headquarters from the front. The German artillery and a massed attack of German infantry had broken the First Division of the First Corps near Ypres.

"We must have reinforcements," said the message. "I can give you my two centres and my Headquarters Staff," replied French. Disaster after disaster followed. The Royal Scots Fusiliers, remaining too long in a hot place, were for their very valour cut off. The Germans had found new artillery positions, had shelled General Douglas Haig's headquarters. A shell had burst in the house. Haig was outside at the time; but nearly every staff officer of the First Corps was killed or wounded. The army up there was almost headless — was fighting as individuals on primitive fighting instinct.

French jumped into his motor-car and rushed to the line of the First Division. He had not so far to go as he thought. The line had retired four miles. Through his glasses he could see the close-packed quadruple ranks of German infantrymen attacking everywhere. And everywhere the English were fighting valiantly, but without method. They were in it to the last man, even the regimental cooks. The officers of infantry and cavalry were firing with the men, their servants loading spare rifles behind them.

### THE COST OF VICTORY.

Mr. Irwin tells how Sir John French then gathered up a part of the broken First Division, threw it at the flank of the German attack, broke it, snatched back the positions lost, and rested finally on his original line. The writer continues: "The English had merely held — technically — really, they had won the climactic action in that long battle which most determined the future course of this war. The cost of it was no less than the cost of other famous victories. One regiment went into that campaign 11,000 strong. They came out but 73. And most of their lost thousand went down that day before Ypres."

October 31 was the decisive point of the action before Ypres, but no one knew it then. The attacks and counter-attacks, the digging in, went on. French troops began arriving in force to strengthen and make sure the line.

Nevertheless the Germans had one more great assault on their programme. Again the dense masses poured in; again the very officers fired until their rifles grew too hot to hold. When, that night, the strength of the German attack was spent, the better part of the Prussian Guard lay dead in a wood — lay, at some places, in ranks eight deep. The second and lesser climax was past. A fortnight more, and the line from La Bassée to the sea had been locked as thoroughly as the line from Switzerland to La Bassée. It had cost England 50,000 men out of 120,000 engaged — a proportion of loss greater than any previous war ever knew. It had cost the French and Belgians 70,000. It probably cost the Germans 375,000. That is a half-million in all. The American Civil War has been called the most terrible in modern history. In this one long battle Europe lost as many men as the North lost in the whole Civil War.

## A ripper old age

From Mrs Jean F. Linden  
Sir, The different attitude to age between Britain and the USA showed up very markedly on the front page of last Saturday's edition (February 28). Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, is to retire at 61; Mr Howard Baker, also 61, is to become the new White House Chief of Staff. Prior to this appointment he was planning to run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1988!

Sincerely,  
JEAN F. LINDEN,  
22 Towers Road,  
Pinner, Middlesex.











# THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

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## THEATRE

### LONDON

★ **ANATOL**: Schnitzler's bawdiest, world-wise scenes in the life of a Viennese philosopher. Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pentonville Road, London W1 0 229 0708. Tues. Notting Hill, Mon-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, £4.50. £12.50. £15.00. £17.50. £20.00. £22.50. £25.00. £27.50. £30.00. £32.50. £35.00. £37.50. £40.00. £42.50. £45.00. £47.50. £50.00. £52.50. £55.00. £57.50. £60.00. £62.50. £65.00. £67.50. £70.00. £72.50. £75.00. £77.50. £80.00. £82.50. £85.00. £87.50. £90.00. £92.50. £95.00. £97.50. £100.00. £102.50. £105.00. £107.50. £110.00. £112.50. £115.00. £117.50. £120.00. £122.50. £125.00. £127.50. £130.00. £132.50. £135.00. £137.50. £140.00. £142.50. £145.00. £147.50. £150.00. £152.50. £155.00. £157.50. £160.00. £162.50. £165.00. £167.50. £170.00. £172.50. £175.00. £177.50. £180.00. £182.50. £185.00. £187.50. £190.00. £192.50. £195.00. £197.50. £200.00. £202.50. £205.00. £207.50. £210.00. £212.50. £215.00. £217.50. £220.00. £222.50. £225.00. £227.50. £230.00. £232.50. £235.00. £237.50. £240.00. £242.50. £245.00. £247.50. £250.00. £252.50. £255.00. £257.50. £260.00. £262.50. £265.00. £267.50. £270.00. £272.50. £275.00. £277.50. £280.00. £282.50. £285.00. 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THE ARTS

Monkey puzzle

*L'Amour des Chânes* (Channel 4) was a Belgian documentary whose title punned on the French word for "channel". Viewers of the world will surely have been united in the difficulty they had in winnowing out the relentless chaff-storm of images and infor-

TELEVISION

mation here presented. It was as if a gang of clever monkeys had hijacked a video editing suite and made straight for the special-effects controls: what with the subtitles, non-Franco-phones needed at least three eyes. At one point, we saw a Europeanist pontificating in a jagged slash of office, centre-screen, while on either side of him a Castrol GTX commercial was being run backwards. One did wonder why.

The thrust of the thing seemed to be the news that Europe is entering a "new electronic Babel" — or an "audio-visual galaxy" — in which a proliferation of television channels is competing for the attention of a finite constituency. It was refreshing to see that spangly Eurostar looks pretty much the same as spangly Anglot — and rather encouraging to learn that Belgium still lags behind Britain in terms of the average number of hours watched per week. Somewhere in among all this, Amanda Lear volunteered the opinion that the commercials are the best thing on television.

Towards the end, Channel 4's own Liz Forgan declared (in very French) that the channel would be betraying its brief were it to attract more than 10 per cent of the domestic audience. One doubts that the following transmission, *Keeping Score*, exceeded its quota.

This was the first of three plays lumped under the rubric *Tickets for the Titanic* — a title which encapsulates the threat of a searing indictment of Britain in the 1980s. *Keeping Score* was a skitish revenge-drama in which a young male prostitute and a young female, nob — christened respectively after the teams that contested the 1961 Cup Final — strove to get their own back through a series of pranks. The script belonged more properly to fringe theatre, and it seems unlikely that *score* will have been disconnected.

Martin Cropper

DANCE

Janet Smith  
Shaw Theatre

The programme book of Janet Smith and Dancers yields the unexpected information that the company is registered as Voices Dance Company Limited. Even if unused, the title is apt enough.

For one thing, their new programme requires the dancers to raise their voices in song for the last ballet, and some of them tackle an instrument too, as part of the admirable policy of live music that, with two string players, a baritone and versatile contributions by their music director Nicholas Kok, provides a varied and entertaining accompaniment to the three works on show.

Besides that, Smith and the guest choreographers she invites — in this instance her husband Robert North — always seem concerned to say something in their dances. It can be as light-hearted as *Still No Word From Anton*, a spoof of soap operas as they were in the days of steam radio. Equally, it can be as serious as *Out into the Night*, based on Shostakovich's Second Piano Trio and full of wartime images of parting, heroics and mourning.

North's *Fool's Day*, an evocation of medieval carnivals, brings both elements together: he plays Death interrupting the antics of the revellers.

A problem is that, trying to reach and communicate with a wider audience, Smith seems inhibited from attempting the bolder themes that sometimes spiced her earlier repertoire. A kind of blandness settles over the programme. Perhaps this is only a passing phase, and her dancers, especially the women, are as good as ever, perhaps even better. Smith's own fluency, Gill Clarke's radiant face and Nan Sheridan's clarity of gesture are joined by an attractive newcomer in Leesa Phillips.

John Percival



Luciano Pavarotti (left), acting deliciously both in and out of character, with the growling Pickwickian Gabriel Bacquier

They should get together

OPERA

John Higgins, in Paris, on Pavarotti in *L'elisir d'amore* and June Anderson in *I puritani*



June Anderson, scattering inhibitions

Paris is playing host to two interpretations of the very highest calibre in the bel canto repertoire. At the Opéra's big house, Luciano Pavarotti has just finished his run of *Memorias* in *L'elisir d'amore*; the ample handkerchief will not be needed to mop the ample brow for the moment and the last of the encores of "Una furtiva lagrima" have been delivered. At the smaller Opéra Comique June Anderson has just performed the first of her *Elvira*s in *I puritani* to applause equally rapturous and equally deserved, but she was not going to give in to audience demands on the matter of encores. Both are appearing in productions borrowed from other countries, which proves the value of lease-lend provided the stages are of similar size.

First to Bellini's *I puritani*, back in the city where it started out just over a century and a half ago at the Théâtre des Italiens. Bellini's final opera, though, has never before been heard at the Opéra, a theatre which turns out to fit it as neatly as a well-tailored glove. The production is the one Andrei Serban devised for the Welsh National Opera in the spring of 1982, which had more to do with *Mother Courage* than the usual misty romantic view taken of Count Peppoli's improbable libretto of the last days of the struggles between the Roundheads and Cavaliers.

Mike Ashman's Paris re-staging alters little: the "fortress near Plymouth" of Act I with its grim drawbridges could equally serve for *Fidelio*, and *Elvira* scans the faces of the dead and wounded for her beloved Arturo just as Leonore scours the prisoners' chains for her Florestan. In Act III *Elvira*'s balcony in the forest grove, required by the libretto, is still turned into a ghostly carriage — presumably the one in which Arturo, putting *score* before marriage, helped the former Queen of England to escape. The consequence was that he did not turn up for his wedding ceremony with *Elvira*, an absence which sends her coloratura mad for the whole of Act II.

June Anderson is predictably magnificent in her central aria, "Qui la voce", and its following cabaletta, "Vien diletto", where Bellini allows his soprano first to drain the well of sweetness and then to show off all the brilliance at her command. This Miss Anderson did now-perfectly, scattering any inhibitions to the wind just as *Elvira* in her delirium scatters the handful of straw about the battlements of Fortress Plymouth. She has over the past couple of years become an extremely accomplished actress: the old stiffness has gone and, although she may look like an American heiress, that is no great harm when playing a colourist's daughter, as indeed *Elvira* is.

Governor of the fortress, went around with his nose stuck in a prayer book, presumably safe in the knowledge that the Stuarts were heading fast towards defeat.

Bruno Campanella, so effective here in *Fillie*, was the brisk conductor, sometimes a little too brisk for Bellini. And Serban changes the composer's ending, just as he was to do in his later production of *Norma*, by having Riccardo attempt to stab Arturo instead of joining in the general rejoicing.

No such liberties are taken with Donizetti and *L'elisir d'amore* in the staging Otto Schenk and Jürgen Rose devised for the Vienna State Opera back in the early Seventies, when Nicolai Gedda and Reri Grist played the leads. The sun shines down on Italy's farming folk, vines cover the ochre houses, a campanile is visible in the distance and Luciano Pavarotti seems delighted to be back on stage again.

His *Memorias*, taking perhaps a size smaller in smocks than the Pavarotti of *Ballo in maschera* in Vienna last autumn, is a joy. It is deliciously acted, both in and out of character. Pavarotti clutches his bottle of *elixir* like a bear given a new jar of honey; he makes a snort when *Adina* chuckles her dog-eared copy of *The Tale of Tristan* at him; he rolls his eyes heavenwards in supplication when the house demands its encore. The voice is currently as full of honey as that bear's jar, with his duet with *Adina*, "Chiedi all'aura", recalling Gligli in one of that tenor's favourite roles. "Una furtiva lagrima" was sung the first time round as though an encore would surely follow, and when it did it became the definitive version.

Pavarotti is surrounded by a cast as experienced as it is excellent. Daniela Mazzucato made her Covent Garden debut a decade ago as *Adina* and she is still as bubbly flirtatious and vocally accurate in the role as she was then. Bernd Weikl is a robust Belcore, the object of her temporary attention. Gabriel Bacquier, looking more Pickwickian by the decade, dispenses potions and patter-songs with equal ease. Marcello Fanni alone provoked the displeasure of part of the audience for reasons quite inexplicable: he was the highly professional conductor of a performance fairly bristling with professionalism.

Paris must now be asking when Anderson and Pavarotti are to be teamed together.

*I puritani* continues at the Opéra Comique until March 27, with June Anderson and Michele Lagrange alternating as *Elvira*. There are further performances of *L'elisir* at the Opéra, with Christine Barbaux and Dano Raffanti replacing Mazzucato and Pavarotti, tonight, on Saturday and on March 12 and 18.

It was in the *Coriolan* Overture and the Seventh Symphony, though, that all the old Soli vim was in evidence, touching at the line of each work as at the sinews of a racing animal — and race the animal did in the last two movements of the symphony. The orchestra were certainly up to playing at this speed and with this intensive force, but the hall cruelly exposed a frequent lack of precision in ensemble, and also tended to muddle textures.

The Allegretto predictably found fewer weaknesses of both sorts, and here Sir Georg took the opportunity to show off his mastery of the long crescendo, keeping the low strings down to a whisper near the start and building with absolute steadiness. It was a trick he possibly used too much later on: Rossini knew it was not a card to be overplayed. But it very definitely added to the impression of a master conductor demonstrating the tearing energy he can obtain whenever he chooses to. Let us hope that the Barbican will learn the lesson, and in its next five years live dangerously.

By making even upbeat phrases sound roundly concluded, Mr Percival brought the first movement away from Beethoven's less wonderful contemporaries, while the slow movement suggested Mozart without the imaginative fecundity. But in the finale matters perked up. Without losing any of his poise, Mr Percival responded to the witty dialogue of treble and bass in the main theme and to the bright chatter of activity in the subsidiary material. And Sir Georg Soli now brought the orchestra nearer the fore with dash and cunning.

Paul Griffiths

Philharmonia/Hughes Festival Hall

When Owain Arwel Hughes signalled woodwind, brass and violin soloists to stand for their applause before he had even had time to turn round to take his, he gave testimony to the sort of Shostakovich it had been. Fast, exuberant and brilliantly coloured, the Tenth Symphony became an extended concerto for orchestra; and the Philharmonia eagerly accepted the challenge.

Hughes was standing in at the last minute for an ill-disposed Yevgeny Svetlanov. Wales and Moscow seemed many miles apart. I cannot remember ever hearing such a carefree first movement. Three rigorous, even sprightly, beats in a bar pressed ahead with the long, erstwhile brooding, string introduction. When the climax came, heralded by hard, sharp arrows of timpani, it roused the nerve rather than chilling the spine. Flute, piccolo and trombone returned to the fray in the second movement, doing shameless

LS/Knussen Logan Hall

sectional boundaries in two simultaneous strands of music. It is exquisite, unpretentious music which, as is often the case with Lutoslawski, seeks and neatly finds solutions to the problems its existence presents, while containing ramifications for the future, for *Chain II* and for the Third Symphony, for example.

Simon Bainbridge's *Concertante in moto perpetuo* similarly makes no extravagant claims for itself. It is derived from a work for oboe and piano composed in 1979. *Mel and Nora*, which Bainbridge decided to expand in 1982, when he heard that Gareth Huys, also the disciplined and con-

Contrasts of energy

THEATRE

Two-Way Mirror  
Mill Studio, Yvonne  
Arnaud, Guildford

Poised for a tour of Home Counties studios, this Arthur Miller premiere consists of a pair of two-handers bracketed together under what seems more a headline than a title. Both plays, it is true, show a bewildered man appealing to a woman who may or may not hold the key to his obsession; and jointly they present a studied contrast between low and high energy. But you can prove anything by this kind of schematic selection. The plain fact is that the programme consists of a limply implausible opening number, followed by a *tour de force* that renews amazement at the creative vigour Miller has regained in his seventies.

The best line in *Elegy for a Lady* comes at the start, when a Thirties middle-aged man wanders into a dress shop and enquires "Have you got anything for a dying woman?". It is a question that turns the surrounding lingerie and gartered thighs to mortal ridicule. However, the proprietress tries to answer it and — in the process — reveals that she knows more about the dying woman than does her glum

old lover (a married man, needless to say). The ingenuity of the plot is that, as a total stranger, she is able to become his most intimate confidante. But that does not account for her readiness to suspend the day's business, extend her sympathy to embracing the customer and handing him a free gift from the jewellery counter. Here, Miller is lumbering into Tennessee Williams territory, crumpling the glass menagerie underfoot.

In *Some Kind of Love Story* a detective visits a prostitute who may have vital information about a murder case. He has been on the case for four years and this is the latest of a long line of interviews. It is late at night and raining; his wife is threatening separation; but he answers the call and turns out yet again in the hope

that this time she may finally deliver. What takes shape during their frenzied meeting is a pact as inescapable as the direct marriage. For Angela, the contact with Tom is the closest thing she has to a stable relationship. For Tom, she is the only lead to the otherwise insoluble mystery. Neither will let the other go — even though she realizes that he only comes in the hope of information, and he realizes that she will never cut her lifetime by divulging it. Round and round the partners go in ever-decreasing circles of ultimatum, screamed insults, arrested walk-outs and passages of shumped exhaustion when something like tenderness comes into their voices.

Jan Shand, a sylphine proprietress in the first play, reveals a fearsome range of panic-stricken aggression as the flaky Angela. She has an aptly Strindbergian partner in Ian Redford. Intrusive Grieg apart, Christopher Masters' productions are tightly organized and excellently lit.

Irving Wardle

Peer Gynt  
Royal,  
Bury St Edmunds

first smile but, while his sexual grappling has something of a dreamlike quality, his stage presence is mature, watchful and tense with the energy that is released in the last moments of the play.

With the African scenes of the second half, lounging with Anita on gold cushions or mooching round the ingeniously suggested Sphinx, Maloney transforms himself into a figure of gorgeous savagery, given to roguish smiles and ever-so-elegant winks. The clipped tones provide an excellent in-

strument for the self-discovery of the last scene.

The mobile pine-trunks in Sturtevant's design, by Brian Rongstad, are ingeniously exploited throughout the evening, except when they represent the Great Boyz as something solid, precisely what this mysterious being is not. Peer eventually slides through them, nature contradicting the point of the play. The trees reverse to become broad mirrors which, among other things, help make a crowd of a company of eight. Between them they play 40 parts. Maria Charles, Tricia Kelly and Katharine New representing the spectrum of female comforters and temptations. A rewarding evening.

Jeremy Kingston

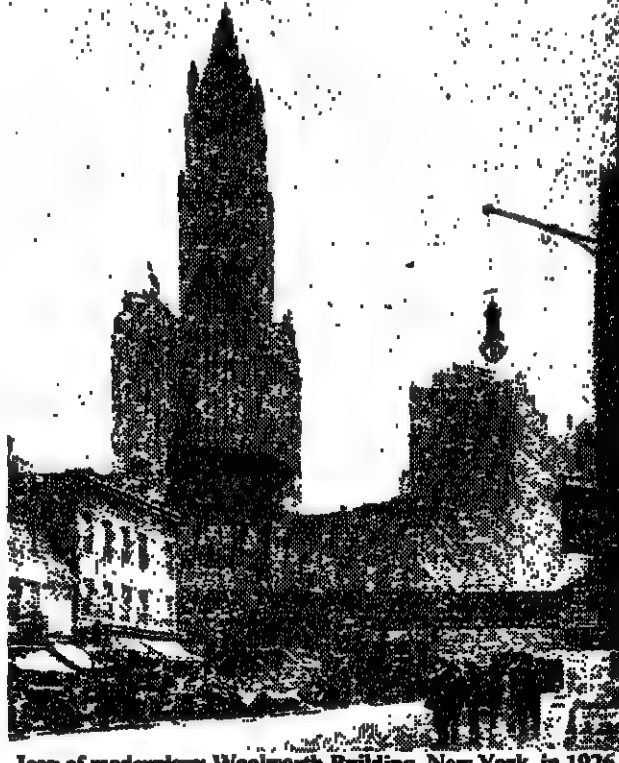
GALLERIES

F.R. Yerbury  
Architectural  
Associational

It is surprising that F.R. Yerbury is not a more familiar figure, for he was certainly distinctive enough. No doubt, now that the Architectural Association has put on a slap-up retrospective (until March 27), he will be a lot better known. Though perhaps one should not bet on it for some reason, photographers who specialize in architecture seem to come quite low in the scale of admiration.

Yerbury photographed mainly icons of modernism, touring extensively on the Continent and in America to do it. His is a photography of record, but it is also the work of a man who was impassioned about what he saw.

John Russell  
Taylor



Icon of modernism: Woolworth Building, New York, in 1926

AN INSPIRING STORY OF LOVE, COURAGE AND EMOTION.

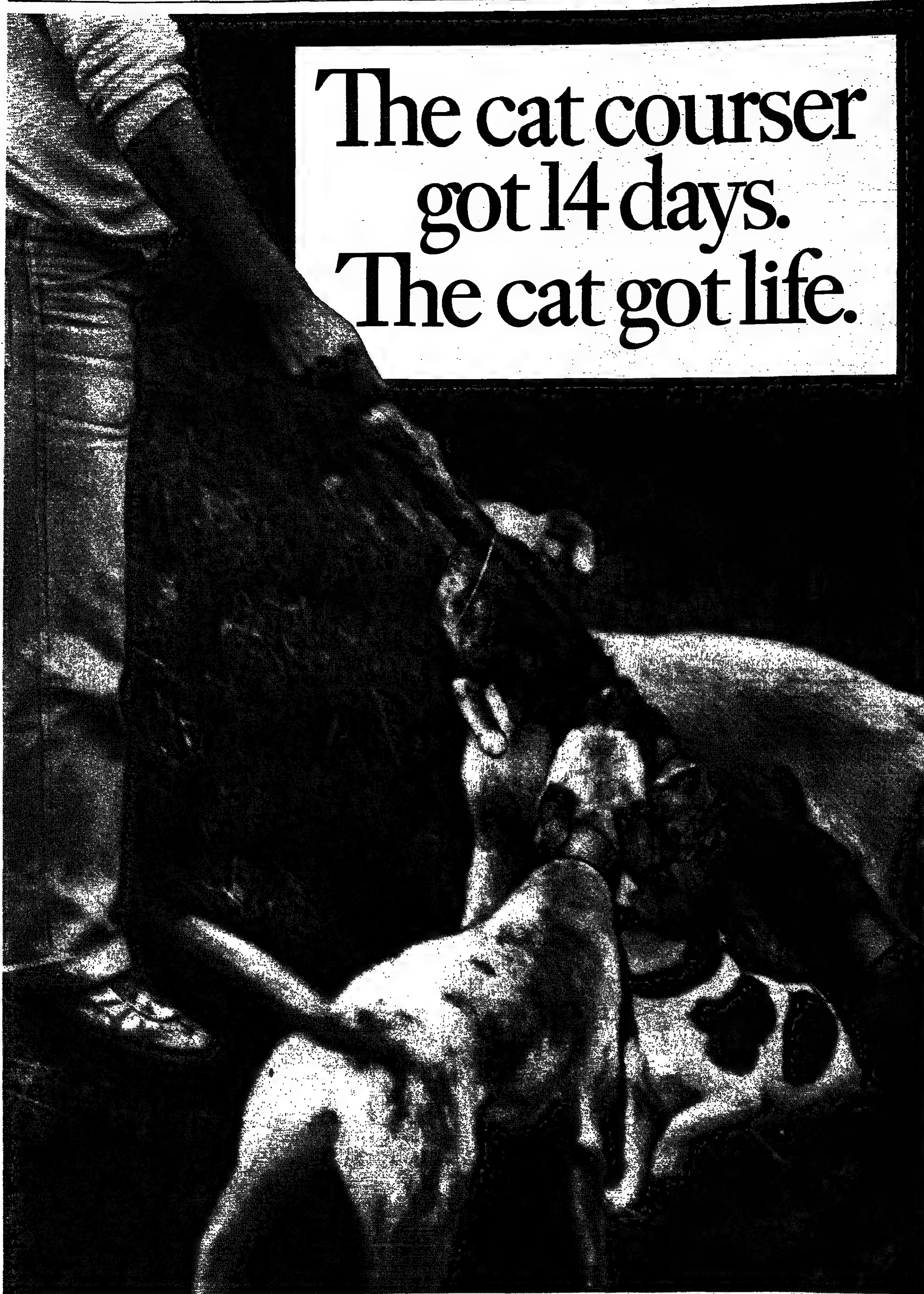


DUET for ONE

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# The cat courser got 14 days. The cat got life.



This is cat coursing.

A man steals a domestic cat and then, callously, sets dogs onto it for his own entertainment and that of his friends.

The man who organised this little get-together was caught. He got 14 days.

The man responsible for this photograph and others like it was fined £250.

Little more than a slap on the wrist.

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The 1911 Protection of Animals Act must be updated to allow for stiffer penalties.

If the situation appals you as much as it does us write to your

MP or please send a contribution: RSPCA(1911), FREEPOST, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1ZA.

Thank you.



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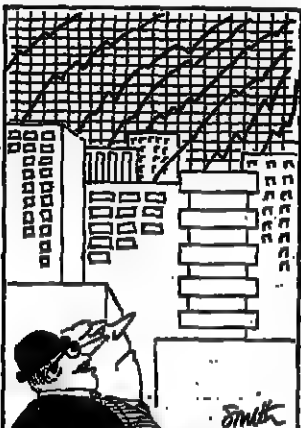




THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fielding bulls

Has the bull market reached its peak? Not yet, according to Savills, the top property agents. On the day that the all-important FT-SE 100 index broke through the 2,000 level, Peter Oswald, Savills' man in the City, tells me confidently that the growth of a bear market is still well out of earshot. He says that a major collapse in share prices is always heralded by a rush of inquiries from big City players for farmland usually in the £1 million plus price range. "At the moment we have around 100 inquiries on our books but only about 10 per cent are from the City. Most of these are individuals who sold out during Big Bang but are still happy to play the market. We'll have a good idea that the City is in for a tough time when we are inundated with calls for agricultural land. But at the moment that isn't happening."



"I know the share index has gone through the roof but that's ridiculous!"

Short shrift

Employees of Shorts of Belfast, the Government-owned aircraft and missile builders, have been ordered by chairman and managing director Sir Philip Foreman to travel only by the Irish Republic's state carrier, Aer Lingus, when crossing the Atlantic on company business. The decision has been made to reciprocate Aer Lingus's purchase of five Short 360 commuter airliners in recent years. But I gather Foreman's firm directive has produced rebellious mutterings among a number of executives and engineers who see it as yet another unwelcome Anglo-Irish dictate.

What's in a name? The new director of legal services at Guinness is called, appropriately, Derek Council.

Hollow laugh

A sign of the times. Speaking at the USM dinner the other evening, David Cohen, of Chase Manhattan Securities cracked: "What do you give a banker who has everything: two years." It went down like the proverbial lead balloon. Not a single titter. "I was both surprised and interested by the response," David said yesterday. "I did hear one or two tables laughing quietly but they were the chartered accountants and lawyers." All the way to the bank, no doubt.

Why are Americans pouring liquid detergents into their washing machines while we are still tipping in powder? The answer given by Michael Angus, chairman of Unilever, who should know, is unlikely to go down well with his UK customers. It is, he says, because American shirts are less soiled than ours. Or to put it more bluntly, they wash more often than we do.

For a song

Nat West Bank, Northern Machine Tools and Kennedy Construction have already agreed to sponsor the forthcoming tour of Poland by the choir of Ampleforth Abbey but more sponsors are still needed. Father Leo Chamberlain, a house master at Ampleforth College, the Roman Catholic school, hopes to raise another £10,000 before the July tour begins. "We've already got enough to cover our costs," he tells me. "but we can raise the extra £10,000 we will be able to spend it all on medical supplies for Poland - which is the purpose of our journey."

Prior date

One man who is anxiously awaiting the date of the General Election is Charles Prior, managing director of BPP Holdings, the USM-quoted specialist publisher. Prior, nephew of James Prior, former Conservative Secretary of State to Northern Ireland and currently chairman of GEC, has been adopted as the prospective Tory candidate for the Coventry North-east seat - a traditional Labour stronghold. But shareholders of BPP needn't worry about Prior's political aspirations getting in the way of his business commitments. He intends to take three weeks holiday to conduct his campaign once the date of the election is finally announced.

Carol Leonard

ECONOMIC VIEW

Pension fund managers in search of harmony

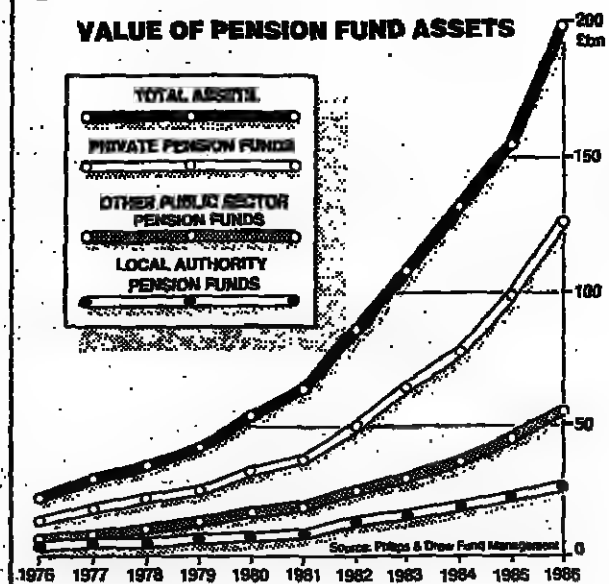
The pensions industry is unhappy. Despite legislation in the past 12 months which will do more to foster private sector provision for retirement than anything governments have done for years, fund managers and actuaries have been writing to the Chancellor complaining about the new tax arrangements proposed for personal pensions.

Now there is none so difficult to satisfy as a professional lobby in possession of a valuable tax break. But in this case the industry appears to have a sound point - even though it may be difficult to satisfy. Essentially, the complaint is that the Government is doing nothing to harmonize the two quite different sets of tax rules under which pension provision currently operates.

In his Budget a week on Tuesday the Chancellor has to give some indication of the tax regime he proposes to apply to the personal pensions provided for in last year's Social Security Act. Unless the Finance Bill contains the necessary clauses it will be impossible to introduce personal pensions by April next year as intended (let alone any earlier).

In November the Inland Revenue issued a consultative document proposing the rules under which the new pension arrangements might operate and inviting comments by the end of January. The industry has responded with less than total enthusiasm.

One thing everyone is pleased about: the Revenue does not propose to introduce yet another tax regime specifically for personal pensions. The proposal is to apply the existing rules for retirement annuities. Personal pensions will thus operate under the rules for "money purchase" schemes where the benefits depend simply on the amount



of money contributed and the performance of the investments in which it is placed. Under these schemes while there is no limit on total benefits, tax relief is confined to annual premiums no higher than 17½ per cent of income, or higher for older contributors.

Occupational schemes, on the other hand, are mostly "final salary" schemes where benefits depend on pay at retirement coupled with length of service. Pensions payable by occupational schemes are normally limited to a maximum of two-thirds of final salary with separate limits on the amount which can be taken in the form of a lump sum on retirement.

In addition there are limits on contributions paid by employees, which cannot be higher than 15 per cent of current earnings, while employer and employee contributions together may not be higher than necessary to provide the promised benefits.

The whole thrust of the

Government's policy on pensions is to increase choice and flexibility in providing for retirement. An efficient labour market is one in which the right person can be matched easily with the right job - at a price reflecting the supply of job applicants and the demand for that type of labour.

Housing problems are one obstacle to movement; pension rights can be another. Most notoriously the rights to a pension based on final salary have in the past deterred executives in their late fifties from moving from one company to another where they would not have built up rights in the occupational scheme.

And the injustice by which people moving jobs tended to pay for the pensions of those who stayed where they were has been largely removed by the requirement on occupational schemes to allow members to withdraw their pension rights.

Given a proper degree of supervision, diversity and a

product tailored to the needs of the customer are best provided by the private sector. The Government's decision to reduce the benefits obtainable under the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme and introduce the personal pension will, over time, be as significant an act of privatization as the sale of British Telecom and British Gas.

Occupational schemes are trying already to respond to customer demand by combining the certainty of final salary schemes with the flexibility of money purchase. The additional voluntary contributions which occupational schemes are now obliged to accept are usually invested to provide benefits on a money purchase basis. But the two different tax regimes make these hybrid schemes difficult to operate.

"The present code," complains the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries in a recent letter to the Chancellor, "does not recognize that freedom to move between occupational schemes and personal pensions, and to combine features of final salary and money purchase benefits, is at the heart of the new arrangements."

The Actuaries and the National Association of Pension Funds also want people not only to be able to switch easily from occupational schemes to personal pensions but to be able to belong to both at the same time.

There are certainly attractions in combining the best features of both, but to offer a contracted out rebate both in respect of fund membership and a personal pension could be a substantial burden on public expenditure.

What will be possible for small companies to buy personal pensions for their employees rather than face the expense of running their own fund.

One restriction which probably will be removed is the prohibition on membership of more than one personal pension. This makes it impossible to combine the stability of, say, a bank or building society linked scheme with the better performance of an equity linked pension.

Changes in the tax regime to bring the rules for final salary and money purchase provision closer together could face considerable transitional problems. But sooner or later the challenge needs to be taken up.

Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Can anything curb the gilt-edged boom?

The gilt-edged market again had the bit between its teeth yesterday, receiving its oats at 9 am when the Government Broker opened the new tap, 9 per cent Exchequer 2002 at £20's per cent. By 3.32 pm its bag was overflowing: the GB announced that all £1 billion of the new stock, which saw the light of day on Monday, had been sold. The price at that time had moved to a premium of ¾. Manifestly, as I wrote here on Tuesday, this offering, which required only £20 per cent down on application, was a golden invitation to join the gilt-edged party.

The party mood and the profits from shrewd positioning in this market are such that those like John Lewis of Phillips & Drew who are forecasting an increase in the number of primary dealers, currently 27, must feel that their money is safe. The mix of course is likely to be different but the determination among the 27 not to be the first to leave the field must be growing by the day.

Gilt is seen as a very good bet on the certainty (or near certainty) that interest rates will fall. If market forces were allowed to operate bank base rates would already have been cut. But the Chancellor clearly prefers to keep this attractive option open at least until Budget Day (March 17). Until they are cut the City can happily contemplate not just 1 per cent off but perhaps 2.

It has to be said that the market is discounting more than lower interest rates. Expectations of a "good Budget" are solid. There are two points worth making about the Budget in this context: (1) there are degrees and there are different definitions of "goodness"; (2) Government politicians facing an election do not normally think along the

same virtuous lines as the market, though this year their thoughts may have converged.

The gilt scenario also includes the return of a Conservative government, sooner rather than later, and even the helpful, if misty, prospect of our becoming a full member of the European Monetary System. But if there is scope for argument on all three projections, the current realities are hardly open to dispute.

Interest rates are coming down. The pound is firm and though the latest international Group of Six accord on currency values might require some downward adjustment, it would need an act of courage to set sterling on a downward path in the belief that a fall could always be contained or reversed. A similar argument might be deployed from the state of the reserves. In the 12 months to October last they fell by £1,185 million; in the four months since they have risen by £490 million. Why not perhaps help rebuild the reserves by selling sterling as part of the currency adjustment programme? Meanwhile the crude oil price is rising and with the New York bond market suffering a fit of anxiety, London is where the action is.

So if this buoyant mood remains, let alone grows stronger, what can the Treasury and Bank of England do to calm it? As I have said, the Chancellor has his own reasons for delaying base rate cuts and the Bank has a psychological hatred of being seen to follow the market's lead. They might risk putting some downward pressure on the pound. In the name of discipline and control they might issue a big new tap stock on terms designed to stop the gilt-edged market in its tracks. We can only wait and see.

Midland rise on bank boom

Midland Bank has finally cut its way out of the undergrowth and is striving to rejoin its peers on the upland plains. The latest results, revealed yesterday, are solid and relatively reassuring: good enough to give hope to a market made wary by Midland's big Latin American exposure and its evident need for a rights issue.

Without the millstone of Crocker National around its neck, Midland looks much less the odd man out. Its figures are simply its own variations on themes already familiar from last week's results of other clearers, and they confirm that despite all black spots, the British banking industry is enjoying good times.

Midland is no different in deriving the lion's share of profits from UK banking. It claims to have hung on to the slight advance in market share gained from its early plunge into free banking in 1985, and it has doubled its mortgage portfolio.

Despite the exorbitant rates of interest the banks (it used to be called usury) charge on personal lending, interest margins have been squeezed and the need for commission income is more acute than ever. It is coming through handsomely to all the banks, Midland as much as any.

The area where Midland remains a maverick is in investment banking. The bank is not exactly doing something unusual but it chooses to include its Treasury operations in the result, something other banks do not. And hey presto! this is the cause of almost all its £65 million profit from investment banking. Is it not just a little cowardly not to make public the results without Treasury profits? This is, after all, one of the main areas in which Midland has said its future lies. It is right that the market should be able to make a reasonable comparison with Midland's competitors across the range of business.

CU finally shakes off accident-prone image

Faced with the novelty of a set of second results from Commercial Union the market was thrown off balance. Some brokers even tried to prove that the figures were not as good as they seemed. They did not get very far, however, and had to admit that CU really had put aside its accident-prone image.

Admittedly the US operation is still trailing the competition but it has done much to improve its earnings quality. The benefits of this action are beginning to show through in the reduction in underwriting losses. However, there was an adverse impact from terminated accounts and CU's disproportionate burden of involuntary business.

In Britain, the group has a good mix of high quality business which is growing steadily. The first quarter of the current year will again bear about £10 million of additional weather-related costs.

Elsewhere overseas, Canada should continue to hold its own helped by rising premiums. The Netherlands is, however, more of a problem area but the initial deliberations of a team of management consultants are being digested at present. A marked improvement from this operation should be forthcoming in 1988.

The composite insurance sector has historically been the one which most clearly demonstrates investors' tendency to look ahead - as soon as the companies begin to earn acceptable results, the market discounts ahead for the downturn in the cycle caused by falling rates.

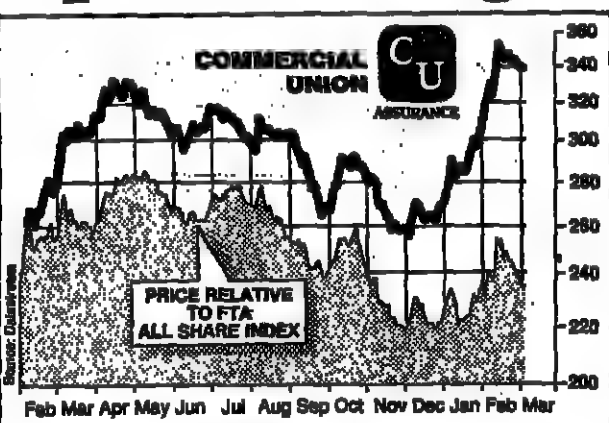
The current peak is in sight but many of the majors are in a much stronger position now than they were. Their mix of business is better quality while stronger balance sheets will help to pay the all important dividends.

CU is continuing its strategy of concentrating on its core insurance business, especially underwriting. The aim is to maintain the group's position in a soft market but to target specific niche areas when conditions are more buoyant.

Commercial Union could make something in the region of £200 million this year (eps 35p). Because of its accident-prone image, its shares are selling at a large discount to the sector. Leaving aside takeover talk, CU shares should outperform the other majors in the sector although some profit taking in the sector may create a temporary lull in the proceedings.

General Accident

Whether it was the excellent Royal results or simply the onset of spring, followers of General Accident had aimed



Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

their sights a little higher in the last day or two and were thus disappointed with the eventual pre-tax profit of £123.2 million for 1986.

The final quarter proved to be the best the group had had as the upswing in the composite insurance sector generated pace, but it was not good enough to lift the results above the estimates that most analysts had pencilled in at the end of February.

With earnings almost trebling, from 20.5p to 60.5p a share, the recommendation of an 18p final dividend, making 28p for the year which was a rise of 6p, was no surprise. But eyebrows were raised at the unusually optimistic nature of the accompanying statement outlining expectations for the present year.

Clearly the motor account was still giving cause for concern at the end of the year. General Accident insures more of Britain's motorists than anybody else - it has about 12-13 per cent of the market - and has been hit harder than most by the continuing escalation in claims.

It has, however, succeeded in hiking its motor premium rates by 28 per cent over the past 12 months, and it will be disappointing if the group cannot show a significant rating in 1987.

In addition General Accident has, like Commercial Union, found the going extremely tough in the Netherlands, where its business was not large enough to bring it the normal benefits of scale.

Despite the heartening statement from the General Accident boardroom, few analysts were initially prepared yesterday to upgrade their 1987 forecasts from around the £225 million mark.

The fall in the share price, 13p to 102½p, represented, of course, little more than a reaction to the buoyancy of the last few days. It has come up by about a quarter since early December and stands at only a 6.4 per cent discount to the December 31 net asset value of 109½p a share - up from 940p a year ago. It may have a little more mileage in it yet.

FT-SE index

It has taken the FT-SE 100 share index little more than three years to double from its opening level, fixed at 1000 on January 3 1984. In that time the "Footsie" as it is familiarly known in the City has well and truly supplanted the old FT Industrial Index of 30 shares as the key barometer of stock market health.

Yesterday the FT-SE briefly pierced the 2000 barrier for the first time, underlining in a neat arithmetical manner the fact that the London Stock Exchange has been experiencing one of the most remarkable sustained bull phases since the new index was created.

Unlike the FT 30 index, which is updated hourly, the FT-SE is changed minute-by-minute so that it can be used as the basis for financial futures contracts based on movements in the levels of the Stock Exchange. The other widely followed indices used by professionals are the FT Actuaries series. The best known of these is the FTA All-share index which was designed to give a once-a-day reading of the overall level of the market to be used by fund managers as a performance benchmark.

Neither the FTA nor the FT 30 were suitable as a basis for futures contracts. The prime requirement was that any new index should perform like a large institutional portfolio of stock if it was to be any use as a hedging instrument.

The FT 30 is a geometrically-based index arrived at by taking the nth root of the aggregate price changes of a portfolio of 30 shares. For the fund manager there are significant differences over time in an index calculated by geometric means rather than one which takes an arithmetic mean of price changes.

The FT 30 index has another limitation in that it is calculated without reference to the market capitalization of the stocks of which it is made up. The FT-SE is both geometric and weighted by capitalization. It has served its purpose well. Long may it flourish.

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Look at your credit card statements and other loan agreements. Wouldn't it be good to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start? Lloyds Bowmaker's HOMEOWNERS LOAN PLAN can do just that. You can pay off all your credit card balances or HP agreements and include the amounts outstanding in ONE SECURED LOAN, leaving you with only one payment each month - almost certainly much lower than your existing payments. We can offer a loan, secured by your house, from £1,000 to £15,000, or even more, all arranged through the post. Life insurance is normally included at no extra cost, whilst for a small premium our sickness, accident and enforced redundancy cover offers you complete peace of mind. All information is treated in the strictest confidence. Your employees are not contacted. If you'd like to make a fresh start, fill in this application form and post it today (no stamp needed), or for priority treatment telephone us Free Of Charge between 9am and 9pm any day. (Offer applies to UK Mainland only.)

Lloyds Bowmaker (DL), Finance House, FREEPOST, Bournemouth BH1 3TO. OR PHONE 0800 373911.

Form for Lloyds Bowmaker Priority Application. Includes sections for: YOUR PROPERTY, YOUR WORK, Partner's Work, and YOURSELF. Fields include Name, Address, Date of Birth, and various financial details.







Portfolio  
Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company            | Group           | Gain or Loss |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1   | Courts (Farm)      | Draperies       | 100          |
| 2   | Nat Aust Bk        | Banks/Discount  | 100          |
| 3   | Ford (Marine)      | Draperies       | 100          |
| 4   | Underwoods         | Draperies       | 100          |
| 5   | Baillif            | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 6   | Britannia Security | Electronics     | 100          |
| 7   | Lee Refrigeration  | Electronics     | 100          |
| 8   | Bliss (J)          | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 9   | Bedevine           | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 10  | Beazer (CH)        | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 11  | Crystalline        | Electronics     | 100          |
| 12  | Black Arrow        | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 13  | Costs Viscia (sa)  | Draperies       | 100          |
| 14  | Liberty            | Draperies       | 100          |
| 15  | Severn (sa)        | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 16  | First Nat Finance  | Banks/Discount  | 100          |
| 17  | Marlan (H)         | Draperies       | 100          |
| 18  | Electromotors      | Electronics     | 100          |
| 19  | Taylor Woodrow     | Building Roads  | 100          |
| 20  | Baggeridge Brck    | Building Roads  | 100          |
| 21  | Coall              | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 22  | Brown (Matthew)    | Breweries       | 100          |
| 23  | Magnet & South     | Building Roads  | 100          |
| 24  | Diploma            | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 25  | Dav                | Industrials A-D | 100          |
| 26  | Sainsbury (J) (sa) | Food            | 100          |
| 27  | Woodworth (sa)     | Draperies       | 100          |
| 28  | Radiant Metal      | Industrials L-R | 100          |
| 29  | Bejan              | Food            | 100          |
| 30  | East               | Draperies       | 100          |
| 31  | Allied Lyons       | Breweries       | 100          |
| 32  | Logica             | Electronics     | 100          |
| 33  | Harwood Foods      | Food            | 100          |
| 34  | Hamro Countrywide  | Property        | 100          |
| 35  | Gold Greenless     | Paper/Print/Adv | 100          |
| 36  | Vaux               | Breweries       | 100          |
| 37  | Western Bros       | Building Roads  | 100          |
| 38  | Illingworth        | Textiles        | 100          |
| 39  | Frasermore         | Property        | 100          |
| 40  | Macro 4            | Electronics     | 100          |
| 41  | BSR                | Electronics     | 100          |
| 42  | Whitbread Inv      | Breweries       | 100          |
| 43  | Hestor             | Industrials E-K | 100          |
| 44  | LeLand Frozen      | Food            | 100          |

Please take into account any minus signs

| Weekly Dividend  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8.000 in Saturday's newspaper. |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| MON  | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | TOTAL |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |       |

| BRITISH FUNDS |      |     |
|---------------|------|-----|
| 1986          | High | Low |
| 1986          | High | Low |

| SHORTS (Under Five Years) |      |     |
|---------------------------|------|-----|
| 1986                      | High | Low |
| 1986                      | High | Low |

| FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS |      |     |
|-----------------------|------|-----|
| 1986                  | High | Low |
| 1986                  | High | Low |

| OVER FIFTEEN YEARS |      |     |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| 1986               | High | Low |
| 1986               | High | Low |

| UNDATED |      |     |
|---------|------|-----|
| 1986    | High | Low |
| 1986    | High | Low |

| INDEX-LINKED |      |     |
|--------------|------|-----|
| 1986         | High | Low |
| 1986         | High | Low |

| BANKS DISCOUNT HP |      |     |
|-------------------|------|-----|
| 1986              | High | Low |
| 1986              | High | Low |

| ELECTRICALS |      |     |
|-------------|------|-----|
| 1986        | High | Low |
| 1986        | High | Low |

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES  
Equities close below best

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 23. Dealings end on Friday, 5 Contango day March 9. Settlement day March 16.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
|------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| BREWERIES |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|-----------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986      | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986      | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| BUILDINGS AND ROADS |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|---------------------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986                | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986                | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| FINANCE AND LAND |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|------------------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986             | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986             | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| FOODS |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|-------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986  | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986  | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| CHEMICALS, PLASTICS |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|---------------------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986                | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986                | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| CINEMAS AND TV |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|----------------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986           | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986           | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| HOTELS AND CATERERS |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|---------------------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986                | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986                | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| INDUSTRIALS A-D |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986            | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986            | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| ELECTRICALS |      |     |      |       |        |     |
|-------------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986        | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
| 1986        | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
|------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
|------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|-----|
| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
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| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |

| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
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| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
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| 1986 | High | Low | Open | Close | Change | P/E |
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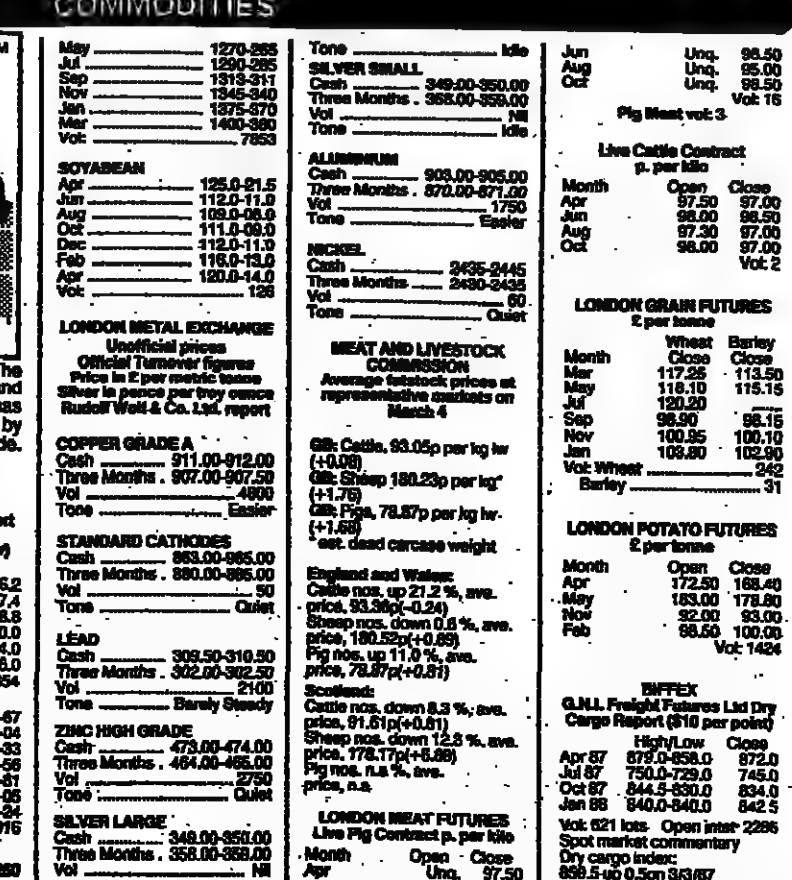
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## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| High Low Company |     |     |     | High Low Company |     |     |     | High Low Company |     |     |     |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1st              | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 1st              | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 1st              | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
| 147              | 152 | 151 | 150 | 150              | 155 | 154 | 153 | 150              | 155 | 154 | 153 |
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# Chelsea planning to scale down Stamford Bridge

By Clive White

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, unveiled plans yesterday to beat the property developers at their own game. He intends to buy the lease on the club's ground by redeveloping more than half the 11-acre site himself and still retain a "scaled-down Stamford Bridge" for Chelsea Football Club.

Bates, who announced his plans on BBC2's *Sports Afternoon* programme, intends to build a community and leisure centre as part of the redevelopment of the ground. "Stamford Bridge was very badly designed," he said. "We think we'll need between four and five acres for a scaled-down Stamford Bridge, doing away with the dog track, and still have between five and six acres for other use."

He added: "We want to get back to the grass roots where football came from and has been forgotten in the last few years." Full details will be announced in one or two months, he said. "We want to keep our powder dry," he explained.

Bates's proposals again

raised the question whether a redevelopment of Craven Cottage, whereby Fulham could continue to play there, might not still be the answer to that club's problems. Marler Estates, the parent company of SB Property, who won Stamford Bridge's lease, and Fulham Football Club hope to obtain planning permission for Craven Cottage.

But given the long-drawn-out fight they can expect from Fulham Council, who are committed to retaining the homes of all three clubs in their borough, perhaps Marler would be advised to be a little more accommodating.

Bates also challenged Marler Estates to produce the evidence on what they base their valuation of Stamford Bridge. David Bulstrode, the chairman of Marler Estates, has suggested a valuation of £40 million for the site by the time the lease expires in August 1989. Chelsea have an option to buy it in August of next year.

Marler, who received planning permission for the ground from the council two

years ago when it was controlled by the Conservatives, say the ground was valued at £25 million a year ago. Bates said: "I have grave doubts about the figures being put in the balance sheet."

He continued: "I don't think that the planning consent is as good as it's made out to be. It has a very serious condition in it which says they can't get any income from the ground until the whole 11 acres have been developed - that could be a two or three-year job."

"They have a large problem in demolishing the east stand because it's made of reinforced concrete. They can't blow it up, so they'll have to use jack-hammers. They've got 150 cubic metres of muck to move before they start building - the residents are going to love that," Bates said.

Should Chelsea and Marler Estates be unable to agree a figure when the lease expires, an independent arbitrator will be appointed by the president of the Institute of Chartered Surveyors.



Split decision: Harald Schmacher (left) and the president of Cologne, Peter Weiland, announce their parting of the ways

## Drugs row decision at Cologne

Cologne (Reuters) - Harald Schmacher, the West German goalkeeper, has agreed to leave Cologne after a controversy over claims that his fellow players took drugs, the club said yesterday.

The Cologne president, Peter Weiland, announced the departure after Schmacher, already stripped of the national captaincy because of his allegations, met with club executives. Weiland said Schmacher would end his contract two years early after 15 years with the first division club. He said the decision was by mutual agreement but did not disclose the terms.

Schmacher, ranked among the world's best goalkeepers and the highest paid in West Germany, was not available for comment but the German media have speculated that he might move abroad. The West German Football Federation (DFB) has called a meeting for tomorrow, Schmacher's 33rd birthday, to decide whether he should also be dropped from the national team.

Schmacher's career has been in doubt since the West German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, last month began serialising excerpts from his autobiography, *Starring Whistle*. Schmacher, who admits he once experimented with pep pills, says in the book that there was a "tradition of doping" in West German football and cites a number of cases in which he alleges players took drugs.

Weiland has said the allegations were damaging for the team and insisted dope tests in a move the club has said was needed to protect the reputation of Cologne and the players.

Schmacher is the most-captured professional still active in West Germany.

## Dutch League bar riot club from playing this weekend

Den Haag, the Dutch first division club whose supporters rioted during the home match against Ajax Amsterdam last weekend, were yesterday barred from visiting AZ '67 Alkmaar in their League match next Sunday.

The mayor of Alkmaar, Kees Roozmond, said that he had decided not to allow the visit in a bid to prevent a repetition of the violence at the Zeiderpark stadium, in which 40 people were injured and 17 arrested.

The Dutch football association (KNVB) yesterday awarded Ajax the match points after play was halted at half-time at the request of the police. Den Haag supporters had damaged the stands, thrown blocks of concrete and began brawling with their rivals. Ajax led 2-0 at the time.

## Dynamo Kiev must wait for first leg

Istanbul (AFP) - The European Cup quarter-final first leg match between Besiktas Istanbul, of Turkey, and Dynamo Kiev, of the Soviet Union, scheduled for last night, was postponed because a blizzard made the pitch unplayable.

Groundsmen are working frantically at the Ali Sami Yen Stadium to clear the pitch of the heavy snowfall. Turkish Football Federation officials said the game would be played today if the ground could be cleared.

Kiev were originally due to host the first leg, but agreed to a request from Besiktas for a switch. The Turks were worried about a loss of gate receipts for the return if they were heavily beaten in the Soviet Union.

## South Korea drops bid to stage World Cup

Zurich (AP) - South Korea yesterday withdrew its bid to host the 1994 World Cup finals, the day after being announced as one of seven provisional bidders.

Guido Toognoni, a spokesman for the international football federation, FIFA, said the South Korean football authorities relayed the decision in a two-line telex message which gave no explanation for their apparent change of heart.

But in Seoul, an official of the Korean football association, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "At this stage, we cannot afford to host such international football events, because our facilities are not up to the required world standards. We have no intention to stage the World Cup before the year 2000."

## Further attack on 'Big Four'

By John Goodbody

The managing director of Britain's largest commercial owning greyhound tracks yesterday joined in criticism of the four leading bookmakers - Ladbrokes, Coral, William Hill and Mecca.

Charles Chandler, of Greyhound Racing Association (GRA), said that criticism of the sport by the big four had led to a "ridiculous situation". Mr Chandler's attack follows a letter printed in *The Times* on Tuesday, in which Major-General James Majors, a senior steward of the National Greyhound Racing Club (NGRC), alleged the powerful bookmaking interests are planning to replace the NGRC as the governing body for afternoon racing.

The "Big Four" already dominate the Bookmakers' Association Greyhound Services (BAGS), owning four of the six licensed tracks. In a letter published in *The Sporting Life* yesterday, Mr Chandler said: "The two BAGS tracks not owned by the bookmakers, Hackney and Bristol, have always been at considerable disadvantage when negotiating their fees in afternoon racing."

"They are faced with competition from bookmakers' owned tracks prepared to race at meagre levels, since their costs are offset by the massive profits from off-course operations."

Mr Chandler said yesterday: "The attitude of the GRA is echoed by owners of all tracks. Hopefully the powers that be will take proper notice of this situation."

Stuart Barnes, the Bath stand-off half, further emphasised yesterday his desire to regain his England position by declaring that he has no intention of joining the world cup party "just for the ride". By so doing, however, he hardly strengthens his own position by appearing to hold a gun to the selectors' heads.

Barnes said: "If things stay as they are I would have to decline the World Cup."

Wagstaff's merit table a John Smith's merit table, despite the suggestion yesterday that the club would "de-merit" because they had players away with England. Wags are second from bottom of the table and are thus in no case to de-value any of their remaining games.

Covearty are the bottom club and so have an equal interest in playing all their remaining games. They have re-arranged their merit table game with London Scottish for March 14.

## Club loses record £208,350

By Martin Searby

Huddersfield Town, who are struggling for survival in the second division, made a record loss of £208,350 in the financial year which ended last July.

The club's overdraft doubled from £157,000 and a deficit compares with a £15,000 profit in the previous year. However this figure is misleading, according to George Blain, the club secretary, because £100,000 was paid out in transfer fees soon after the surplus was announced.

The accounts reveal that Terry Curran, who joined on a free transfer from Everton, was paid £30,000 during his 12-month stay when he scored seven goals in 34 games.

Curran, now with Sunderland, his tenth club in a 13-year career, could do little to help his troubled team at Hull on Tuesday night and the midfielder was substituted as the home side eased their own problems with a 1-0 win which gave Brian Horton, the manager, cause for optimism.

"There's no way we can go down," he said. "We're not a relegation team and with eight of the last 14 games at home I am pretty confident."

In a refreshingly generous change of heart Horton has rewarded little midfield player Billy Askew for recent performances by taking him off the transfer list.

## Everton step up Clarke interest

Everton's long-running interest in Wayne Clarke, the Birmingham City forward, is progressing towards a deal, in the next 48 hours.

Everton approached Ken Wheldon, the Birmingham chairman, yesterday in an attempt to reach agreement on a complicated set of financial arrangements. Wheldon has been placed in a dilemma over the player's refusal to sign an improved contract, and Everton's reluctance to offer more than £250,000.

However, a decision is being forced upon him because the player's contract ends this summer. Talks yesterday centred on a compromise allowing Birmingham to meet their obligation of paying part of the fee to Wolverhampton Wanderers, Clarke's former club, and retaining enough to satisfy themselves. Birmingham were ordered by a tribunal to pay £80,000 for Clarke, plus 50 per cent of any profits from a resale, in 1984.

The Birmingham chairman also yesterday rebuked John Bond, the manager, for comments about Bobby Robson, the England manager, which has brought him an FA charge of bringing the game into disrepute. Bond has been told by his chairman that in future he must concentrate his efforts on the affairs at St Andrews.

Wheldon's busy day was completed when David Geddis signed for Shrewsbury Town in a £25,000 deal, after

completing a month on loan at Gay Meadow.

● Bobby McDonald, the Oxford United defender, signed for Leeds United yesterday after a spell on loan. He has been given an 18-month contract by the Yorkshire club, where he has taken over the left back role.

● Queen's Park Rangers have signed Les Ferdinand, the Hayes forward, for £15,000, beating the record fee when the Vauxhall Opel League club sold Cyrille Regis to West Bromwich Albion for £10,000 10 years ago.

● Scunthorpe United have paid Hull City a five-figure fee for Andy Flowers, who will make his debut in Saturday's home game against Cardiff City.

● Bournemouth have completed the signing of Tony Sealy, from Leicester City. Sealy is joining Bournemouth on loan for the rest of the season and joins their squad for Saturday's match at Wigan.

● A three-way tug-of-war between London clubs has developed over Tony Cascarino, Gillingham's Republic of Ireland forward. Charlton Athletic have been joined in the hunt by Wimbledon and Millwall for the player who cost Gillingham a set of track suits and is now valued at £300,000.

● After failing to sign Paul Stewart from Blackpool, Manchester City want Andy Jones, the Port Vale forward

## WEATHER

General situation: Atlantic fronts will introduce milder conditions to all of northern and western Britain but the South-east will stay fairly cold. Cloudy, some bright intervals in many places. Rain at times. Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Fairly mild, dull and cloudy with some rain at times in many areas.

## ABROAD

| WEDNESDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fog; sp, sp. rain; s, sun; st, snow; t, thunder. |         |          |         |           |         |
|--|---------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Algeria  | c 11 52 | Madrid   | c 19 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Athens   | c 12 58 | Naples   | c 15 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Alexandria   | c 20 58 | Osaka    | c 20 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Algiers  | c 20 58 | Paris    | c 13 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Americas   | c 13 27 | Perth    | c 23 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Amman  | c 23 58 | Rome     | c 23 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Antwerp  | c 23 58 | Sydney   | c 23 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Barcelona  | c 23 58 | Tokyo    | c 23 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Belfast  | c 23 58 | Winnipeg | c 23 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Berlin   | c 23 58 | Yokohama | c 23 58 | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Birmingham   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Bombay   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Boston   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Buenos Aires   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Calcutta   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
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| Copenhagen   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
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| Fukuoka  | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
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| Reykjavik  | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Rio de Janeiro   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
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| Taipei   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Tokyo  | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Winnipeg   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |
| Yokohama   | c 23 58 |          |         | Stockholm | c 19 58 |

## AROUND BRITAIN

| WEDNESDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fog; sp, sp. rain; s, sun; st, snow; t, thunder. |         |               |         |           |         |
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# GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

March 5, 1987

**M**arketing is about hard numbers — not just about selling to individual customers, major retailers, government or technically based groups. Marketing is about profit — not about sales volume. Marketing is about profit margins, and it's about levels of service to the customer.

So marketing really embraces all of top management's responsibilities: their approach to business, use of productive resources, attitudes to customers, government, suppliers, staff and shareholders. Directors have the responsibility to define very carefully what business, what markets and what technologies their companies are in; the definitions need to be broadly based to enable everyone in the company to know what management is endeavouring to achieve, and all the detailed plans and programmes across the company will be focused on achieving these broad objectives.

A great deal of success in business depends on the skill with which management can establish performance-based objectives with subordinate managers and staff. Whatever businesses companies believe themselves to be in,

business is essentially about the management and marketing of innovation and risk.

Without innovation, businesses would become sterile, and would decline.

Innovation is at the heart of marketing management, yet it has become more fashionable, especially in Britain and Europe, to talk about rationalization and contraction rather than innovation and business growth.

We require a national mood being stimulated by those who guide this economy, which focuses on business development and growth rather than on rationalization and contraction.

Most businesses are organized to achieve today's profit targets — not too many are organized to achieve rising profits in the 1990s. The important markets, with big volume, big profits and high visibility stakes, are internationally based — petroleum, motor vehicles, metals, aircraft, banking services. These are international opportunity markets.

The most significant business challenge in Europe and North America is how national and international businesses in these regions accommodate the competitive challenge from Far Eastern economies that are taking increas-



**Only the most market-orientated and efficient firms will make profits in business today, says Roland Smith**

ing international market shares in both mature and expanding product areas.

The reality of business life in the 1980s is that we have already witnessed a fundamental shift in the balance of manufacturing industry away from Europe and America to Pacific Basin communities, and the process may well be continued. The challenge for both American and European marketers is to innovate either with new technologies or with redesigned and repositioned mature products that still command significant market volume.

Such innovation requires two things — first, a sophisticated appreciation of entrepreneurial

marketing, and a willingness to take significant business risks by senior marketing management.

And secondly, it requires a steady supply of graduate engineers trained in the evolving technologies. British business cannot compete in international markets without advanced or up-to-date technologies, even in the manufacture and sale of mature products.

Unemployment is a function of our technology, and technology will develop only from highly trained graduate engineers.

What is a rather surprising feature is the way that British business has shown little endeavour to influence the activities

and work programmes of British universities.

The challenge for marketing management is to define the path forward for their companies. If businesses are to be market-led, as they must, then marketing management should be prepared to provide the detailed plans.

The most effective short definition of marketing that I put to my managers in my various companies is that "marketing is concerned with making it easy for the customer to consume your product". Such a definition requires us to plan and develop a strategy that is based on developing and selling premium products based on outstanding technology.

In the Department of Management Sciences in the University of Manchester, we have a big research team working in a whole range of European engineering and electronics businesses, looking at the relationship of manufacturers to their customer profiles, and also the way the customers look at their suppliers.

Some tremendously valuable material has appeared. Some large British electronics and engineering groups have little or no marketing resources at all. If you ask for information about markets or what the Americans call market-

ing information systems, little is available. I must say, having been on the receiving end of a number of presentations by electronics and computer hardware and software groups wishing to sell their products, the quality of sales presentation has varied enormously from company to company.

**M**arketing people can on occasion succumb to the attractions of their own methodology rather than the dynamics of the market-place. What is needed in today's competitive world are men and women who have an understanding of the market-place in which they operate; who are statistically driven in their management thinking; and who have an understanding of financial business performance. Essentially, the requirement is to integrate flair, imagination and pragmatic response with the more professional standards of management behaviour.

When marketing people talk to their chairman and chief executive about the potential business development opportunities for their companies, they must concern themselves with the fact that the points of competitive challenge are far greater and far more

international than even five years ago. Every day new capacity, new technology, are emerging all around the world, rather than just in Europe and North America.

Marketing people must have this broad international entrepreneurial orientation and confront their colleagues with the challenging question: has our company sufficient productive and marketing capacity in these different regions of the world?

Speed of competitive response is absolutely vital in today's markets: there is so much under-utilized competitive capacity available around the world that if companies have little or no market planning, or are too bureaucratic in their response — or simply get their market analysis wrong — then it is more likely that such companies will be wiped out.

Even though all the major markets are highly competitive, there is an immense volume of business to be done and only the most efficient market-orientated firms will take the business and make profit from it.

Professor Roland Smith is professor of marketing at the Institute of Science and Technology, University of Manchester, and chairman of Hepworth Ceramic Holdings.

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Reporting to the Chief Reservoir Engineer, you will carry

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A graduate, you have around eight years' oil industry experience, at least five of which have been spent in reservoir engineering. Ideally, you have a varied background gained with a major oil company and are thoroughly versed in reservoir simulation.

An attractive, competitive remuneration package including a wide range of benefits is available.

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## FOREIGN BANK

is seeking an experienced female clerk for a responsible position. Typing skills and ability to work with figures required. German language skills are a must.

Please send your resume and photograph to: IFC International & Consulting Corporation, Brandenburgstrasse 35, 1000 Berlin 15, Germany.



# GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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Why? Exceptional products and outstanding people are two obvious reasons. Another is the recognised excellence of our customer training, a factor we regard as key to our continuing success. That's why the Business Development Manager we now seek to join our Educational Services Division in Reading will be taking on one of the most exciting roles to be found anywhere in the industry.

The challenge of identifying and developing new business opportunities for the Customer Training Group will allow you to develop your marketing and business skills to the full. You'll be involved in new training ventures and be expected to use your own initiative to produce - and sell - effective business plans that meet customer needs.

That's not all. You'll then be responsible for introducing and co-ordinating the approved new business schemes, meeting budgets and managing all major projects as they become integrated within the Educational Services operation.

You'll therefore have a background in Marketing and a proven

knowledge of business development. Some project management experience will be an advantage as will a knowledge of the training environment. You'll also need to be a self-motivated high achiever, with good communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to deal credibly with people at the most senior levels.

The rewards are high. Besides a salary of up to £20K plus car and many benefits including relocation where appropriate, you'll enjoy the rare opportunity of increasing the success of a company that believes in constant and rapid advancement.

Many would find a role with this much scope for creativity a daunting proposition. If, on the other hand, you'd relish the opportunity, please write with a full cv to: Margaret Packham, Digital Equipment Co Limited, Stairs Hall, Shinfield Park, Reading, Berks. Tel: 07341 865771. DEC particularly welcomes disabled applicants.

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## Chief Accountant London SE5 £18,000 pa + Car

The Fund is Britain's largest international children's organisation working in 50 countries including the UK and with an income of £35 million in 1986/7.

Reporting to the Deputy Director General/Financial Controller, the Chief Accountant will be responsible for the overall operation and internal control of the Fund's financial affairs and dealings. (S)He will also be responsible for the management of a department of 30 staff; the provision of financial and management information and the preparation of published accounts.

Applicants must be qualified Accountants with extensive accountancy experience including expertise in computerised accounting systems. Strong management skills will also be essential.

SCF's system of pay is currently undergoing a major review. As travel throughout the UK will be necessary a Fund car will be provided.

For further details and application form please contact Leonie Linton, Personnel Officer, SCF 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD. Tel: 01 703 5400.

Closing date for applications is 27th March 1987.

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## Building Societies Ombudsman

Under the terms of the Building Societies Act 1986 a new office as Ombudsman is to be established. Appointment will be through, and responsibility to, an independent Council under the chairmanship of Lord Barnett.

• **THE ROLE** is to deal with complaints from individuals arising out of the building society/customer relationship in a range of specified activities. The office will be in London.

• **PREREQUISITES** are a legal background and the authority and personal stature successfully to handle problems, in issues of widely differing degrees of complexity, in a position of high public exposure.

• **TERMS** are flexible and for discussion. The appointment is open to men and women.

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The main emphasis will be on whole-Regional leadership on human resource issues, which are central to achieving the long term strategies for changing and developing health care services.

The major areas of work will be in Manpower Strategy, Management and Career Development, Employment Services and Training Development. The Regional Personnel Manager will be responsible for all four areas, but will be expected to provide personal leadership in one of these major areas of work.

This senior level post will be accountable to the Director, Management Services & Personnel, Mr. Tony Garland, who will be pleased to answer informal queries from those with a proven track record of achievement in human resource management, not necessarily in the Health Service nor specifically in personnel appointments. Telephone: 091 265 4188. Application pack from Mr. T. L. Teal, Northern Regional Health Authority, Benfield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 4PY.

Closing date for applications: 31 March 1987.



Northern Regional Health Authority

## The Royal Bank of Scotland

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More detailed information and the compulsory application form may be obtained on written request (ref: Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 58 of 6.3.1987 - Open Competition No. J 161/86).

□ Press and Information Office, 8, Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3J.

The final date for application is 15 April 1987.

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THE WM COMPANY

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## ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

Salary £25,750 pa plus accommodation plus meals

Interesting, rewarding work in busy student office, working with American undergraduates and supervising residence on a live-in basis. Flexibility, ability to deal with people and to work under pressure essential. A knowledge of London an advantage. Varied duties and irregular hours including some evenings and weekends. Applicants should be young, enthusiastic graduates and able to start work by 1 April 1987 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Further particulars are available from Charlotte Radford, to whom applications with curriculum vitae should be addressed: The American Institute for Foreign Study, 37 Queens Gate, London SW7 2NR. Tel: 01-281 2733

## COMPANY SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

We currently have a vacancy for a qualified Chartered Secretary to join a company secretarial company which handles the statutory affairs of a large number of corporate clients.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please apply with a comprehensive curriculum vitae to:

Miss Lesley Glasberg,  
Goodman Jones,  
23/30 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HH.



# GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

## BBC APPOINTMENTS

**BBC North East**  
**HEAD OF**  
**TELEVISION**  
Newcastle  
Salary by Negotiation

This summer, the television operation in Newcastle moves into the new Broadcasting Centre at Fenham. This move creates opportunities for Network programme-making as part of the BBC's new North East Region. We are looking for a Head of Television to lead this development.

You will be responsible to Head of Broadcasting (North East) for the editorial and managerial control of all television production from the Newcastle centre and will be a member of the Regional Management Team, contributing to the formation of a policy for developing BBC activities in an area east of the Pennines, extending from the Wash to the Scottish border.

You must have relevant television production experience at a senior level, as an immediate priority will be to develop programming which exploits the new studio facilities at Fenham.

(Ref. 5591/T)

## MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

Television  
Birmingham  
£14,725 - £19,115\*\*

With a re-organised region, BBC Midlands now requires an experienced journalist to be the regional correspondent. Working to the News Editor (Midlands), you will cover the main stories and reflect the key issues in this large area of the country, giving special attention to political matters, and showing expertise in covering business and industry. You will be required to report and comment incisively on events in the Midlands for regional news and network programmes, including longer items which seek to explain the background to daily events.

We look for a proven journalistic record and good broadcasting technique. Sound judgement in selecting and developing stories intelligently, especially when under pressure and an ability to originate ideas and communicate them with accuracy and style are also needed. A good appreciation of the political profile of the region, and a keen interest in its industrial and commercial activities essential.

A thorough knowledge of the Midlands and experience as a television reporter would be an advantage.

(Ref. 5338/T)

## JOURNALIST

Radio Leeds  
£10,412 - £14,725\*\*

Could you replace one of our journalists who's just left us to produce Radio 4's *Today* programme? Or the one who left for *File on Four* ... for BBC TV's *Look North* ... for TV on Merseyside ...

The post of News Producer calls for substantial journalistic experience, preferably including broadcasting. You'll be compiling and reading news bulletins and hourly summaries as well as reporting and generating news items and copy on your own. So you need to be a 'digger' of news, an incisive interviewer and have the flair to write for radio. A good microphone voice and a current driving licence are essential.

(Ref. 6822/T)

Relocation expenses considered.

\*\*Plus an allowance of £1,020 p.a.  
Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref. and enclose a.s.a.)  
BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA.  
Tel. 01-827 5795.

We are an equal opportunities employer

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL (Management)

c. £35,000 - £40,000

This important new post in the top management team of the Law Society involves leadership of the administration, management services, personnel and finance functions. The successful candidate will need the ability to understand and support these activities by relating them to the Society's strategic objectives which are concerned with helping to make solicitors' services more available to the public, promoting high standards of professional training and conduct, and securing reasonable remuneration.

As the Law Society is governed by its own members through a mainly elected Council, the post holder will need to be able to operate easily in that environment as well as show political sensitivity in handling complex and far reaching issues affecting solicitors.

Important will be a successful track record as a solicitor or in any of the professional disciplines mentioned above, together with experience of general management or formal training in senior management.

An attractive remuneration package is offered with generous relocation arrangements which will recognise the regional differences in the costs of housing. The Society is also considering a scheme for performance related pay.

Please address your application, detailing experience and achievements in the areas quoted, to The Secretary-General, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL. Closing date 31 March 1987.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

THE LAW SOCIETY



PHILLIPS & DREW FUND MANAGEMENT LIMITED

## Administration Assistant

Phillips & Drew Fund Management, one of the largest fund management organisations in the UK, is seeking an experienced person to assist the Administration Manager.

You will have a good knowledge of the securities industry and have experience in Investment Administration, preferably with pension funds. Some knowledge of pension fund tax would be useful. You should be able to communicate with clients and management at all levels and should have experience of delegating work to junior staff.

Your duties will include establishing and maintaining systems, monitoring of opening and closing of client accounts and providing cover and support for the Administration Manager who deals with all aspects of office management.

You will be rewarded with an excellent compensation package which includes a company profit-sharing bonus, mortgage subsidy, pension scheme, free life assurance and free BUPA.

Please write, enclosing full curriculum vitae to:

Sally Walkley,  
Recruitment Officer,  
Phillips & Drew,  
120 Moorgate, London EC2M 6XP

PHILLIPS & DREW

## YOUNG GRADUATE

The National Association of British and Irish Millers (NABIM) is the trade association of the UK flour milling industry. It occupies pleasant offices in St James's on the edge of Green Park.

The Association's Trade Policy Director seeks a young graduate (22-30) to assist him over the range of his responsibilities, which include industrial relations matters, the monitoring and assessment of developments in the wheat market and the promotion, by public relations techniques, of flour and bread consumption.

Essential requirements are sound intellectual ability, drafting skill and an agreeable personality. Reflecting the importance of EEC policies and legislation to Association Members' interests, proficiency in French is desirable.

Attractive salary negotiable, according to age and experience, with a contributory pension scheme, season ticket loan and luncheon allowance.

Write for application form, no later than 20th March to the Administration Director, NABIM, 21 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RN.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### CONFERENCE ADVISERS

Wilton House Conference Centre, near Stanning in West Sussex, is the home of the Wilton Park International conferences. Open to high-level participants from all over the world, the conferences provide a forum for the exchange of views on a wide range of international and comparative national issues under the leadership of the Wilton Park academic staff. One or two posts of Conference Adviser are now to be filled. Appointment will be for a period of 3 years initially, with the possibility of extension or permanence.

You would be responsible for developing themes and organising conference programmes, inviting speakers, chairing plenary sessions and discussion groups, writing conference reports, and contributing intellectually, administratively, and socially to the success of the meetings.

Preferably aged at least 30, you must have a degree with first or second class honours, or an equivalent or

higher qualification, preferably in one of the social sciences; an enthusiastic interest in international affairs and in political, economic and social issues; several years post-graduate experience in relevant academic work, public service, or the private sector; and good communication skills. A good knowledge of French and/or German, and experience in social hosting at conferences are desirable.

Some overseas visits may be required.

Salary £14,315 rising to £19,465 (under review). Starting salary may be above the minimum. Relocation expenses may be available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 27 March 1987) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: G/7167.

THE CIVIL SERVICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## Young Graduate

for a fast moving planning environment

c. £8,500

Harrow

British Tissues manufactures disposable paper products to a wide range of retail and industrial markets.

We are seeking a young enthusiastic person to join our central planning and inventory control team. Working in a dynamic environment you will be involved with day to day problem solving and monitoring, analysing and reporting important aspects of planning activity, using the latest computerised systems.

You should be educated to degree level or equivalent ideally with a mathematical or business studies bias and be keen to pursue a career within a commercial environment. Previous experience in a commercial role is desirable but not essential.

We offer an attractive salary commensurate with age and experience, 25 days holiday, the opportunity to study for further qualifications and excellent career prospects.

Please write with full details or alternatively telephone for an application form to: Helen Pooley, Personnel Officer, British Tissues Limited, Lowlands House, 43-51 Lowlands Road, Harrow, Middlesex. Tel: 01-864 5411.



An equal opportunity employer

## TRAINEE COMMODITY BROKER

The London subsidiary of a leading French commodity house is looking for a self-motivated trainee broker. The ideal candidate will be between 20 and 25 years old, probably a graduate in economics or international trade, and with fluent French. No previous experience of commodity markets is needed as full training will be provided. Salary £10,000 pa negotiable.

Please contact Ms Garros on 01-235 9563

## RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

& negotiable

We are a small, well established consultancy specialising in International Banking and Financial Recruitment.

Due to expansion we are seeking additional consultants, either with previous experience or self-motivated people from a commercial background. For further details telephone

01-638 5286

11 Blomfield Street, London EC2

## REGIONAL DIRECTORS

London

Norwich

The Association, which is one of the largest and most prestigious in the country having over 800 properties in management, wishes to make new appointments of Regional Directors. Reporting to the Chief Executive, the successful applicants will have responsibility for promoting the Association, carrying out new housing developments, and providing an efficient housing management and maintenance service within budgetary and policy guidelines set by the Board of Management.

Applicants should have sound experience in a senior management position (not necessarily in housing) and preferably possess an appropriate professional qualification. The posts offer:

- \* Starting salary in the range of £17,500 - £22,500
- \* Company car
- \* BUPA
- \* Contributory Pension Scheme
- \* Annual holiday of 25 days
- \* Removal and relocation expenses up to £1,500

Applications in writing should be made by 18th March 1987 to:

Chief Executive  
Orbit Housing Association  
44/45 Queens Road,  
Coventry  
CV1 3EH  
Tel: (0203) 632231

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

(Interviews will be held in early April)

## BRITISH INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

### Liaison Officer - London

The Institute is looking for a graduate, preferably in an economic/business discipline with a minimum of 18 months' business experience to work in the Representation Unit.

The Liaison Officer researches and, as directed, puts forward the views of the Institute's members to Government, Parliament and national opinion makers. This involves keeping up-to-date with all relevant UK and European legislation; drafting detailed submissions and reports; consulting members through surveys, and keeping members informed on representative issues.

Applicants, male or female, should have a high degree of intellectual ability, a reliable memory, good speed of reaction, accuracy, ability to work under pressure and systematic administration. An understanding of computers would be useful.

Starting salary £9,250 to £11,250 (including London Allowance)

Please send CV or write for an application form to:

Sue Dally, Personnel Department,  
British Institute of Management  
Management House, Cottesloe Road,  
Cotswold, Oxford OX1 1TT  
British Institute of Management Telephone: 0636 224222

## CAREER WITH FULL TRAINING IN MARKETING COMPANY

The company is expanding and looking for young well-educated people aged between 22-28 years, who have some work experience and now want to develop a career.

The job involves marketing and communication and the company is looking for people to train in management skills, sales and research.

It means hard work, long hours and a high commitment to learning.

The vacancy is IMMEDIATE.

Please call Erica on

01-625 6381.

PROGRAMME RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY

## YOUNG? ENTHUSIASTIC? HARDWORKING?

Then you could be just what we are looking for!

You must be able to type (at least 45 wpm) and have a good telephone manner.

We are looking for bright, self-motivated Sales people to join our energetic Telephone Sales Department, selling the Times and Sunday Times Classified sections.

The rewards include: an excellent starting salary, generous bonus scheme, long holidays and superb benefits.

If you think you are what we are looking for, please

telephone:

Patricia Moore  
01 822 9342

9.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
THE TIMES



# GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

## NATIONWIDE OPPORTUNITIES SUMMER ADVENTURE CENTRES

DOLPHIN operates exciting American style activity holidays for children at superb centres throughout the U.K.

Behind the scenes the organisation required at each camp to maintain the standards associated with the UK's leading camp operator is hard work and time consuming but tremendously rewarding.

We have positions available for Camp Directors and Assistant Camp Directors at many of our centres so if you feel that you have the ability to manage and motivate a large staff team, you are keen to take on responsibility and you are available for 4/5 weeks this summer we want to hear from you. Also available are positions for Activity Instructors.

Please telephone 0903 750310 or write for an application to

Management Recruitment,  
Dolphin Adventure Holidays,  
34-36 South Street, Lancing,  
West Sussex, BN15 8AG.

## Just because you are out of a job doesn't mean there isn't a job out there for you!

Many people assume that it is impossible to find "the right job for me." It's so natural to maintain a blinkered view of your own potential that it's hardly surprising if you fail to achieve your true potential.

Chusid Lander can change all that. We are a group of specialist career consultants whose sole function is to guide executives and professional people to achieve their personal and financial ambitions.

We guarantee that we will commit our time and effort until you are satisfied that your career objectives have been realised. Then you can really celebrate!

For thirty years we have been striving for the best. Now it's your turn! To arrange an early confidential appointment, without obligation, telephone your nearest office, (24 hour answerphone in London) or send us your C.V. Ref: C/L/1

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BIRMINGHAM 021-643 8102  
BRISTOL 0272 22367  
MANCHESTER 061-228 0089  
NOTTINGHAM 0949 37911  
GLASGOW 041-332 1502  
BELFAST 0232 621824



**CHUSID LANDER**  
35/37 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 5AF

## THE FORD CHAIR IN MANUFACTURING QUALITY

A key new Professorial appointment is being created at Cranfield within the vital area of Manufacturing Quality. The Professor will have a unique opportunity of creating a major thrust in collaboration with developing activities within the 1986-supported OMI Institute, the new DTI-supported activity in Micrology and Quality Assurance, and the Factory Automation activities within the College of Manufacturing.

Applicants should have high qualifications and leading edge experience in relevant areas such as quality assurance, quality engineering, quality improvement strategy etc., and be able to develop and lead a successful and growing activity with strong interaction with industry. The ability to develop work collaboratively with companies across a range of industries, establishing on-going quality improvement strategies, particularly within an increasingly integrated manufacturing environment, is important.

Internal enquiries may be made in the first instance by writing to Professor John Crookall, College of Manufacturing, with brief details of background and intended approach. For further information please contact:

Head of Personnel Services, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield,  
Bedford MK43 0AL.  
(Telephone: 0294 750111 exts. 3330/3336).

## College of Manufacturing

## Jonathan Wren

### TRAINEE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LONDON EC1 - £8,000

A highly respected, medium size firm of chartered accountants has retained us to recruit high calibre graduates for April and September 1987. The firm is part of a well known training syndicate and offers varied work experience with clients ranging from wealthy landowners to public companies. Candidates must have a minimum of 9 UCCA points, combined with a good honours degree (2:2+) and real commitment to a career in chartered accountancy. The friendly working atmosphere in this practice encourages a good partnership relationship and an above average exam success rate.

Written applications only to Carol Jardine.  
Interviews commence 12th March 1987.

LONDON BRUSSELS HONG KONG SYDNEY

## Jonathan Wren

Recruitment Consultants  
No. 1 New Street, (off Bishopsgate), London EC2M 4TP.  
Telephone: 01-623 1266. Fax: 01-626 5258.

## SRN'S, GRN'S, NEW GRADS United States—Arkansas

### OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU!

Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas is the only pediatric hospital in the state and is an expanding acute care, 188-bed teaching hospital serving children ages 0-21 years and is one of the top U.S.A. children's hospitals. Opportunities for you range from burn, neonatal, cardiovascular and pediatric intensive care to medical/surgical and adolescent psychiatry. Prior pediatric not required for all positions.

ARKANSAS DOES NOT REQUIRE THE CGPNS EXAM NOR THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD EXAMINATION. YOUR TRAINING IS RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED IN ARKANSAS.

If you are trained in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand, Australia or Canada and meet clinical and theory requirements, you can receive a permanent Arkansas license from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. Excellent fringe benefits include H1 Work Visa assistance, extensive orientation personalized to your learning needs, and relocation allowance.

Arkansas, located in the Southwestern U.S.A., only a few hours from Dallas, New Orleans and Florida, has four distinct seasons of natural beauty and unlimited cultural resources!

If available, bring your passport, current nursing license, nursing school transcript and 3 consultant copies of your nursing diploma and license to interview with Mr. Leland McGinnis, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Board; Mrs. Ella Christopher, RN, CPNP, Associate Administrator; Jackie Jardine, SRN, RSCN, at:

#### DUBLIN, IRELAND

Jurys Hotel  
March 9, 10, 11  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Peninsula Bldg., Ballsbridge  
01-767-5111

#### LONDON, ENGLAND

May Fair Hotel  
March 13, 14 & 16  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Stratton Street, London  
01-425-7777

#### EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

George Hotel  
March 18 & 19, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
21 George Street, Edinburgh 2, 01-225-1251

Contact one of the above at the hotel for an interview or stop by in person. You may call Freda Mobley, Nurse Recruiter, Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas, at 501-378-1398 COLLECT for an advance appointment.



#### ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

800 Marshall Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas, 72202, U.S.A.

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# SALES & MARKETING

## SALES EXECUTIVES COMPUTER SERVICES

We are looking for experienced sales executives, for West London/Western Home Counties and Greater Manchester Northern area, to share our outlook, philosophy, and success. Our organisation trains people in computer programming and other data processing techniques. At Data Training, people matter. The whole philosophy of the business is based on developing and maintaining good, long term professional relationships with clients. These include Government Departments, Local Authorities and well known private sector companies, many of them dealt with for several years.

The people we are looking for, probably aged 24 to 35, will service these accounts and follow up new leads. A minimum 2-3 years selling, experience is essential, though not necessarily in computing industries, since extensive product training will be given. The job requires intelligence, imagination, tenacity, common sense and a sense of humour.

The successful applicant will be rewarded with a stimulating, challenging occupation, and considerable job satisfaction.

First year earnings including high basic, commission and profit sharing should exceed £14,000 to £18,000. Company car provided. Please telephone Linda Thorpe on 01-404 5444. (Evenings on 01 692 7733).

## MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR INDUSTRIAL TEXTILES

£21,000 + Car + Benefits  
Age 30-45

J + D WILKIE LIMITED

Our business, established in 1868, is the manufacture of industrial woven and non woven textiles.

To increase our UK and continental market penetration of existing products and to develop new markets and products, we seek a dynamic Marketing Director.

Applicants should currently have an active marketing and development role and possess a technical appreciation of industrial textiles, probably gained through experience within the synthetic woven, non woven, or fibre industries.

As a member of the Board, the successful applicant will play a significant role in the future development of the company, and the total remuneration package is commensurate with the appointment.

Applications enclosing CV should be addressed to:

Mr L C Tolland, Managing Director,

J + D Wilkie Limited,

Gairie Works, Kierriemuir, Angus, DD8 4BL.

## MICROPOLIS

Micropolis Corporation develops, manufactures and markets 5 1/4-inch high performance Winchester disc drives and is recognised as a world leader in this segment of the computer peripherals industry.

The Corporation is a rapidly expanding public company founded in USA with its European Headquarters in Reading, Berkshire. Micropolis is now seeking to strengthen the European support of its OEM and Distribution activities by creating two new managerial positions.

### Distribution Manager, Europe

This is a staff position demanding an outstanding record in the development and management of a distribution network for computer related products. Reporting to the Vice President, European Operations, you will assume responsibility for supporting the sales of Micropolis distribution subsidiaries and the further expansion of our independent distributor network.

An excellent salary package is offered, and will include company car.

Please write in confidence with full C.V. to: Rosemary Kerry

### Sales Manager, UK/Scandinavia

Applicants should be experienced in the sale of computer peripherals or similar products to major OEM accounts and have technical qualifications to degree or HNC standard. Knowledge of the Winchester disc drive market would be an advantage however, a broad based experience of the OEM marketplace, together with proven sales skills are essential.

MICROPOLIS

Micropolis Corporation

Acra Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0SU

## IT SERVICES

## SENIOR SALES PROFESSIONAL

OTE \$30K, Basic neg. c.\$20K + car + benefits

We need you to sell specialised market information services to IDC's major clients... senior marketing and business managers in the top 50 IT suppliers. We have the high quality information they need; your job will be to identify and sell the appropriate services, including custom consultancy.

Aged 30+, you will have the necessary sales skills and sufficient understanding of our clients' marketing needs to communicate with them persuasively. Your major account development experience will enable you to recognise and fulfil new sales opportunities.

With an international turnover in excess of \$35m., IDC is the world's leading specialist supplier of IT market research and consultancy. Our prestigious UK client base vouches for both our quality and your prospects for a rewarding career.

Please write, attaching a full CV, to:

Ellen Wiltsee,  
IDC UK Ltd., 2 Bath Road,  
Chiswick, London W4 1LN  
Tel: 01-995 8062.



INTERNATIONAL DATA CORPORATION

## SALES PERSON FOR ELECTRICAL EQPT. WEST AFRICA

5 years experience of sales in West Africa with 2 of those in Nigeria.

CV's to:

REF KD/870305/SPALAL  
P.O. Box 180, London. N2 9DW.

## GRADUATES £10-£12K or good 'A' levels

We work with prestigious companies who seek young and dynamic sales executives. You must be under 30 with at least 6 months' experience in a commercial sale-sales or field-sales environment. Rewards include a high basic salary, plus commission plus car. First class training and career development prospects. For immediate consideration call or send CV to Lindsey Hoggie.

SALES & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS  
7 PRINCE STREET W1 022 7222

## RECORD SHOP

Requires bright out going Sales Assistant for our busy Central London shop. Common sense and good knowledge of classical music are essential. You should be well presented and looking for a good future.

Call now Simon or Bernie  
on 01-379 7635/7427

## EXPERIENCED SALESPERSON

Required for small expanding company. Outlets Housewares Industry, British Isles. Aged 25+. Good prospects, salary negotiable + commission + expenses. Living easy reach of office.

Please write with full details to:

LINEAR MARKETING LTD,  
22 The Maltings, Roydon Road,  
Stanstead Abbots, Nr. Ware, SG12 8HG.

## EXCITING NEW SALES OPPORTUNITY £11,000 - £16,000

We are a specialist Publishing House, established for several years - and we are expanding again! As a result of the introduction of exciting new media, we are now looking for 3 more salespersons (Female/Male), resident in the North of England, to join our select team selling advertising space in Estate Agents' magazines to local businesses.

To qualify you will be approximately 24-40, enthusiastic, self-motivated, a good communicator, and possessed with determination to succeed in a competitive environment. Previous experience in Media Sales is not essential as we operate a comprehensive training programme.

A basic salary and generous commission package should ensure 1st year earnings of between £11,000 and £16,000. We also pay full expenses and a generous car allowance. For the successful and ambitious, there are excellent career prospects within our company.

For a confidential informal interview contact: Wendy Banks by telephone or in writing to:

ESTATES SERVICES LTD (ESTATE AGENCY DIVISION)

1/3 HAYWRA CRESCENT

HARROGATE

HG1 5BG

Tel: (0423) 523666.

Please quote Ref:EA200

## CAN YOU NEGOTIATE IN THE INVESTMENT WORLD?

Due to expansion throughout the UK we are looking for career minded self motivated people over the age of 22 to be trained professionally in dealing with the public in the investment and insurance field. The selected candidates will have the opportunity to earn high levels of income, commensurate with their activity, in addition they will have the backing of a well established company.

LONDON - RALPH BARNETT - 01 387 8070

LEICESTER - PETER HARRISON - 0533 555014.

MANCHESTER - ALAN SCHOFIELD - 061 8723947.

LEEDS - BRIAN LUCAS - 0532 433 557.

BRISTOL - BERNARD SIVEYER - 0272 299917.

## CAN YOU MARKET?

We require ambitious individuals with spirit and drive to join our financial consultancy group.

High income and shareholding are the rewards in this highly successful developing company.

If you are serious about your future and keen to earn what you are worth, please call:

CHRIS PICKERSGILL  
ON 01-734 7882

Ext 133.

## PART-TIME LION TAMER

As one of the UK's leading paper merchants, The James McLaughlin Group is always on the lookout for young adventurous, dynamic, lively, part-time Lion Tamers.

Salary c£2,000 plus car.

In your spare time, we expect you to develop your product knowledge and sales skills firstly in our Promotion Division and then in one of our Sales offices.

For details please contact Peter Ventres on

01 311 7111

## ENGINEERING

H.T. Electrical are a National Stockist & Distributor to the Industrial Control Market, due to expansion we have the following vacancies.

## Field Sales Engineers

FSED For the North London and North West Divisions

The successful applicant must be conversant with Motor Control Gear and associated products, with a working knowledge of Programmable Controllers and Electronics an advantage.

Qualifications to O.N.C. level, or higher are desirable.

Salary commensurate with experience and a package including other benefits available for the right person.

## Tools Sales Specialist

TSOT To promote and sell a range of specialised hand tools. The successful applicant should be familiar with the Electrical and Electronics Industry and have a proven sales ability and driving licence.

Salary commensurate with experience and package includes other benefits.

For application form, in the first instance, please write quoting the job reference number to:-

Mr P.J. Silliter - Director

Gibbons Industrial Park, Dudley Road,

Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8XF.

We regret we cannot reply to each application.

**HE**  
**HTELECTRICAL LTD**  
ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

## CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Location North London. Salary c£18k. Min. qual. M.Mech. Experienced in project management of construction contracts. Thorough knowledge of machine tool plantwork. Successful candidates unlikely to be less than 40 years old. C.V.s to:

Engineering Division,  
ASB Recruitment,  
50 Fleet Street,  
London EC4Y 1BE.  
Tel: 01 583 1661.

## DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

## CONTROLLER OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

An Engineer with a flair  
for innovation

Barnet is London's second largest Borough and this is reflected in the complexity of work of this key post in our Technical Services Directorate.

As Controller, you will be responsible to the newly promoted Director of Technical Services, Max Celler, for the efficient management and performance of the Engineering Services Division. It's a demanding role, the gross budget is over £33 million encompassing Engineering, Works Services and Recreation, and you'll have 280 white collar and 970 blue collar staff to lead by example, dedication and hard work.

For this Chief Officer post you will need to be a Chartered Engineer who possesses exceptional management abilities and a flair for innovation and anticipation. You must also have proven success in staff and public relations.

It is unlikely that anyone with less than 5 years' experience at Chief Officer or Deputy Officer level, or as a principal in private practice or industry, will have the necessary qualifications for this post.

Salary on a scale from £24,888 to £27,573 per annum (under review), plus lump sum car allowance.

Closing date 20th March 1987. Ref DTS/CE

If you would like more information about this post, contact Max Celler on 01 446 8511.

Application forms and further particulars are available from the Recruitment Office, London Borough of Barnet, 16/17 Sentinel Square, Brent Street, Hendon, London NW4 2EN. Telephone 01 202 8282, ext 424 (01 202 6602 outside office hours).

AN AUTHORITY COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

LONDON BOROUGH

**barnet**

## Research Geophysicists

(Senior & Intermediate)

We're the European subsidiary of Digicon operating at the forefront of seismic technology. To continue to provide our clients with a quality service, we're looking for additional exploration Geophysicists for our Dedicated Research Group. This group uses and develops programmes under the DISCO system.

For the senior role, you'll need at least 5 yrs relevant experience, preferably in a R & D environment with a proven track record of creative problem-solving.

For the intermediate role, you'll need to have at least 3 yrs relevant experience processing seismic data, preferably in a R & D environment.

In both cases, we're seeking people with a higher degree and who have a knowledge of FORTRAN 77.

The rewards include competitive salaries plus the usual fringe benefits. To apply, please send a detailed CV to Dr Luis Cernadas at the address below.

Digital Exploration Ltd,  
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For an application form please telephone Sally Chanter on 01-745 6498 or write to her at Heathrow Airport Limited, D'Albanc House, Heathrow Airport, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 1JH.

# Heathrow

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# BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

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With the growth of the Eurobond market and global trading, our client plans to strengthen the support provided to the financial side of the business. We are looking for two recently qualified Chartered Accountants. They will be involved in the development of financial control and management accounting in the securities area. The successful candidates will have a major role in establishing guidelines for the future.

Our client is a leading British Merchant Bank operating internationally. They are balancing an investment programme in Information Technology with a major investment in people.

Applicants, who must be qualified, will need sound technical accounting skills, probably gained in one of the big eight to complement a sound academic background. Good communications skills are essential as the candidates must be able to relate to people at all levels. The posts offer excellent opportunities for career development, providing the first step into the securities market. In addition to an attractive salary there are substantial bank benefits.

For more information and to arrange an initial interview please telephone John Pitt on 01 608 1104 quoting Ref. 694 or write, enclosing a full c.v. to our London office at the address below.



LIMITED

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## PROFESSIONAL MOVES

Several prestigious clients offer exciting opportunities for Accountants looking to make their first move into progressive commercial environments. Whatever your examination results the time is now right for a no obligations discussion and assessment of your career potential. Prospects include:-

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Tel: 01-588 2534.

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## ACCOUNTANT TRAVEL

£17,500  
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+ CONCESSIONS

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- To report to the parent company for the financial status of the group and to ensure corporate policies and procedures are followed by each location.
- To ensure all European companies in the group comply with legal and fiscal requirements of the country in which they trade.
- Participation in the annual plan incorporating the 5 year long term strategy.

The position requires a qualified ACA accountant, aged 26-30. In addition to technical excellence the willingness to travel and meet people at an international level is paramount.

In the first instance, contact Alan Rayner on (0444) 417125.



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## After The Results ... The Dilemma

Many Newly Qualified Accountants are undecided upon their next career move. The temptation is to move on impulse rather than examine all the options.

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- Mainstream Audit
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- Insolvency

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If the above is of interest to you or if your preference is to work for a branch office of a 'Top 8' firm in the Home Counties, then help is at hand.

For confidential counselling, with an objective viewpoint without pressure contact KATHRYN BALL.

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Public Practice Division

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Candidates, male and female, please write to David T. Bentley, Manager, Human Resources Division, 3i Consultants Limited, 8 High Street, Windsor, Berks SL4 1LD, or telephone Windsor (0753) 867175 (24 hour service), for further details and an application form, quoting DB/647.

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The following personnel are required:-

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The incumbent will be expected to have at least 8 years of programming, systems development and project management experience and should be capable of taking overall charge of the computer department and communicating effectively with users at all levels.

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The incumbent will be expected to have 3 to 5 years' experience of Cobol programming and maintenance of an on-line system.

For both positions, experience of working in banks and familiarity with the NCR IITX operating system will be beneficial.

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## Step into Retail Part Qualified Accountant

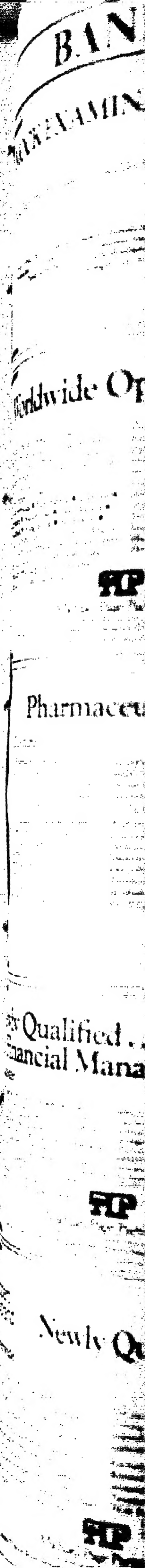
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This well known retail company offers a sound commercial training ground to a young part qualified CIMA/ACCA with 1-2 years' experience. London based, you will be involved in all financial activities from preparing accounts through to reviewing current trading figures; thus gaining a thorough understanding of the Department's computer applications (both mini & micro). Tangible promotion prospects exist either in the head office or in the numerous regional outlets. For full details and an initial discussion please call or write to NANETTE McDUGALL Ref: 3364

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# BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

## MOCK EXAMINATION - PE3 - PAPER 1 - CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### Question 1. (100 marks)

Which Recruitment Consultancy offers The Newly Qualified Accountant access to the most attractive and comprehensive range of career opportunities throughout the UK and Overseas?

### Suggested Answer:

For an informal discussion please call: London - Industry & Commerce Hugh Everard 01-831 2000; Professional Juliet Connock 01-831 2000; Corporate Finance Lindsay Sugden 01-404 5751; Bristol Benny Hayes 0272 276509; Birmingham Dean Collins 021-643 6255; Glasgow Colin Mackay 041-331 2597;



**Michael Page Partnership**

International Recruitment Consultants

London Windsor Bristol Birmingham Nottingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow & Worldwide  
A member of Addison Consultancy Group PLC

Leeds Steve Broadhurst 0532 450212; Manchester Steve Banks 061-228 0396; Nottingham Rod Shaw 0602 410130; Windsor Steve Doyle 0753 856151, (our regional offices cover all career options) or write to Michael Page Partnership, FREEPOST, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5ER.

## Worldwide Opportunities

Our client, a major international practice, is currently using the Michael Page nationwide network of offices to interview and pre-select candidates for their visiting overseas partners in March, April and May.

Their requirements will be for:  
• USA • Bermuda • East Africa • Europe •  
• Caribbean • Middle East • West Africa •  
• Canada • Hong Kong • Australia •

The specific opportunities will vary according to location, however, the emphasis will be for newly qualified ACAs and will include those from small/medium firms, large firms, computer audit specialists and tax specialists.

The individuals sought will be capable of working to the highest professional standards and will, in personal terms, be capable of settling in quickly in a foreign environment. As would be expected of one of the world's leading firms, remunerations will be competitive and benefits in some instances will include accommodation and a car.

For an initial interview at one of the offices listed below contact Michael Risley at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH on 01-831 2000 (or 01-879 0975 outside office hours).



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**Eagle Star**

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Having successfully qualified, you are probably considering the next stage of your career. Being part of the major multinational group BAT Industries, and one of this country's leading insurance companies, which also has interests in a diverse range of financial activities, Eagle Star can offer a challenging and forward thinking environment to further develop your skills gained over the last 3 years.

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Within the tax function you would gain valuable commercial experience alongside a team of qualified tax specialists. In addition to general corporate tax compliance, advice and planning, interesting

one-off projects are undertaken.

The accounts function offers an excellent opportunity to gain exposure to all aspects of the business as a key member of the management team. Successful applicants will enjoy the possibility of further career development not only within Eagle Star but also other areas of the BAT Industries Group.

For further information regarding current and future opportunities please contact Jayne Thomas (Tax) or Kristin White (General Accounting) on 01-831 2000 or write to them at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Strictest confidentiality assured.



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## Pharmaceuticals

### Cheshire

The Pharmaceuticals business of ICI PLC has a worldwide turnover of £1bn and operates internationally from its Headquarters in a pleasant part of rural Cheshire.

Opportunities now exist for young accountants to join the finance function and to participate in a structured career development programme, with opportunities for rapid advancement to senior level, both within the business and throughout the ICI group.

to £20,000 pkg.

Candidates should be recently qualified, graduate accountants who can demonstrate the intellect, drive and ambition required to succeed in this highly competitive environment.

Relocation facilities are available where appropriate. Interested applicants should contact Alan Dickinson, quoting ref. 7081, on 061-228 0396 at Michael Page Partnership, Clarendon House, 81 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3LQ.



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## Fibres

### Gloucester

ICI Fibres, part of the Chemicals and Polymers Group, operates in a sophisticated, consumer marketing environment at the forefront of synthetic fibre technology.

An opportunity has arisen for an outstanding young accountant to join this business, initially at its manufacturing location in Gloucester. This first role will have a management accounting bias, with emphasis on the development of business systems, but this is essentially a long-term career appointment, with excellent opportunities to progress to senior-

to £20,000 pkg.

level positions throughout the Group. Candidates, aged 23-28, should be recently qualified, graduate accountants, with well developed communicative and inter-personal skills, who can demonstrate a high degree of self-motivation and ambition. Medium term mobility is essential.

Relocation facilities are available where appropriate. Interested applicants should write to Stephen J. Broadhurst, quoting ref. 8226, at Michael Page Partnership, 29 St. Augustine's Parade, Bristol BS1 4UL. Tel: 0272-276509.

## Newly Qualified... ...Financial Management?

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Our client, English & American Insurance Group plc, a prominent member of the London Market has its Corporate Headquarters situated in Gloucester. The Group is engaged in insurance and reinsurance business, underwrites its own account and acts as underwriting agent and corporate manager for UK subsidiaries of major overseas insurance companies. The success of the Group is reflected in its high growth rate resulting in immediate requirements for both newly-qualified and experienced accountants. Opportunities are varied and challenging, offering excellent exposure to sophisticated computer systems and high level management reporting.

within a dynamic environment. The successful candidates will be expected to make a significant contribution to the running of the business and must display the capacity to liaise effectively with management at senior level. Medium and long term prospects are excellent and the highly competitive remuneration packages are accompanied by relocation expenses where appropriate. Interested candidates should contact Paul MacLidowie, on (0272) 276509 (24 hours) or write to him at 29 St Augustine's Parade, Bristol BS1 4UL, quoting reference: 8068.



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**Haines Watts**  
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Haines Watts, a fast growing national practice, is seeking newly/recently qualified accountants for PA/prospective partner positions within several offices throughout the UK. Candidates who have qualified with a smaller practice would not be at a disadvantage as the firm provides comprehensive training at their major offices with close partner involvement and in accordance with a standard training programme.

The firm concentrates on providing a full range of services for the medium to large privately owned

company from "start up" to preparation for stock exchange listing.

Candidates should be good communicators with strong commercial awareness and will be looking to further their career with a major firm that can offer real partnership prospects.

For further information please contact James Cozens on Windsor 0753-856151 (evenings and weekends 01-540 8163) or write to him at Kingsbury House, 6 Sheet Street, Windsor SL4 1BG.



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**Coopers & Lybrand**

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Coopers & Lybrand, one of the leading international firms of chartered accountants, seeks newly qualified ACAs to specialise in taxation. Vacancies exist throughout the UK.

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For further information, please contact David Kennedy on 01-831 2000 (evenings and weekends 0793 484451) or write to him at the Taxation Division, Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Strictest confidentiality assured.



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## Corporate Finance

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- \* International Capital Markets
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If you are a young qualified accountant from a 'Top Ten' professional firm, with a first class academic record and an interest in corporate finance, we would be pleased to discuss your career opportunities in this challenging area.

For informed career advice on a totally confidential basis please contact Lindsay Sugden or Mark Hartshorne on 01-404 5751 or write to 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



**Michael Page City**

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## HORIZONS

A guide to  
career development

In a second article in our series on working with animals,  
Sally Watts discusses openings for teachers

After 19 years teaching in a primary school, Frances Rogers now works for the London Zoo's education programme, helping to teach visiting undergraduates and parties of school children. The programme is run by an education officer and four assistant officers, of whom Frances is one. Another works at Whipsnade Zoo.

Most have graduated in zoology or biology and all are good at teaching, so they can provide the best possible lectures, guided tours and other activities. Frances began with a year's secondment to the zoo, but two years after she returned to school the zoo decided to have a primary teacher on the staff, and she was appointed.

Her work is mainly with the four to 11 year-olds. On the day we talked she had dealt with a small home tuition group followed by a party of 15-year-olds, and enjoys being able to cater for children of all ages and needs.

"I was very happy teaching, but there were a lot more administrative responsibilities," says Frances, who was a deputy head, and acting head for a year. "Now I work with the whole primary range. I see the animals every day and conservation projects are going on — there's always a lot happening."

The education staff, backed by three untrained young assistants who are getting the feel of zoo life, run the volunteer schemes, prepare Zoo News contributions, geared to Young Friends of the Zoo, give talks at the teacher centre and answer telephone inquiries from the public.

Frances also trains teaching auxiliaries, and prepares lectures and work sheets.

Pay is at Burnham Scale II, plus London weighting. Most zoos employ an education staff, but unfortunately vacancies are rare.

Another example is provided by David Cavill, also a former teacher. While he was finance and personnel director of a large kennels, he realized the need for teaching and training show judges. In 1980 he set up the Canine Studies Institute at Bracknell, and three years later it was accredited as a correspondence college.

David Cavill has introduced a number of courses, of which some are particularly suited to older people wishing to specialize. One is the Diploma of Kennel Management for those who decide to own their own kennels.

Another is the Judging Diploma and for this students should have owned and exhibited show dogs for at least five years and have some experience of breeding, while the Dog Breeding Certificate is useful for people hoping to specialize in breeding and exhibiting.

Similarly, men and women who have worked with horses may decide to use their experience by establishing their own business, such as a riding school. Business and management skills are as important as equine qualifications, and

## Helping those first steps in a zoo quest

it is helpful if two people, each proficient in one or the other area, join forces.

The British Horse Society's booklet, *Working With Horses*, lists studies at county colleges of agriculture; for instance, the Advanced National Certificate in Equine Business Management, a one-year course for those with work experience, or — for senior staff including managers and proprietors — the Racing Industry Equine Husbandry course, a two-week block.

Saddlery is useful, interesting work for people with craft skill, manual dexterity, and a "horsey" background. Cordwainers College, in Hackney, London, runs a three-year City and Guilds Diploma.

Although 18 is the minimum, you can apply at any age. Most students hope to own their own saddlery, and business and management are part of the course contents. An alternative way to train is by being apprenticed to a Master Saddler. (The Society of Master Saddlers is at Easdon, Lower Icknield Way, Chinnor, Oxon OX9 4DZ.)

One of the most-sought areas, and one of the hardest to enter, is conservation. Professional vacancies are relatively rare

and competition is fierce. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, for example, likes applicants to possess a first degree in natural sciences, a qualification in statistics computing, and to hold or be preparing for a PhD.

But a few do find professional jobs later. One is David Elcome, who was a 36-year-old lecturer at a teacher training college when he was appointed head of RSPB's education department. A job advertisement enabled him to combine his hobby of bird watching with his teaching skills and interest in conservation.

One advantage was that, having taught geography in a secondary school, he understood the schools exam system — and the RSPB was concerned that there was little in the syllabus and exams on birds and conservation. So his department is producing material geared to the new General Certificate of Secondary Education. It also runs the Young Ornithologists' Club and arranges children's activities.

Since his appointment, David Elcome has built up his professional staff to 18. Some are in regional offices, some are teacher-wardens at nature centres, others work at education centres visited by schools and students.

The Farming and Wildlife Trust, at Lincoln, advises farmers on conservation and there is an increasing demand for their expertise. So staff need a farming background and a good ecology qualification — and every vacancy is considerably over-subscribed.

But older applicants have a fair chance: the minimum age is 25, most are appointed in the late 20s or early 30s and there is no upper age limit, though they must be adaptable, with proven practical experience.

People with good scientific backgrounds find research opportunities for organizations, ranging from the Nature Conservancy Council to the London Zoo, which is a learned society. Here some 80 men and women — junior technicians through to top scientists — are engaged in important work directed towards health, in areas such as diet and fertility.

Most are on short-term grants from bodies like the World Health Organization, Medical Research Council, or British Heart Foundation.

For people who choose a career in veterinary medicine later than most, there are a few university places for mature students. They still need the right A levels, and some have a related degree. Among numerous opportunities for vets in research and medicine, there is an increasing amount of preventive work, like teaching livestock skills to farmers, and advising on herd health.

Late starters interested in training to be RSPCA inspectors should remember that candidates are considered up to 35, and beyond in special cases. Other welfare bodies include the Feline Advisory Bureau, the Blue Cross, and the National Canine Defence League.



Loving it: a day out at London Zoo

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## FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Cambridgeshire/  
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Neg c £25K + Car  
+ share option ldc

Our client, a wellbacked 'start-up' 1.5 years ago, has now successfully reached the next important stage of its development, and is poised for an exciting period of expansion.

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